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Grobelaar cleared on final charge

Players must pay huge bill for their costs

By STEPHEN FARRELL AND STEWART TENDLER

THREE footballers accused of match rigging have been left with legal bills totalling nearly £750,000 even though they were cleared of all charges after a nine-week trial.

John Fashanu, the England striker turned television presenter and millionaire businessman who declined to utter a word to defend himself against a conspiracy charge throughout a two-year police investigation and two trials, faces a bill of about £650,000 after the trial judge told him that he had brought suspicion on himself. He intends to challenge the ruling.

The former Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers, also charged with conspiracy, also had his application for costs denied. He had paid £65,000 towards his legal aid, but will not have it repaid. Riggs Grobbelaar, who was cleared yesterday on the judge's direction after the jury failed to agree on whether he accepted £2,000 to throw a match, made no application for costs. He had paid £30,000 towards his legal aid and will forfeit that sum.

But Mr Justice McCullough



Mr Justice McCullough

said that the fact that Mr Fashanu had received very considerable sums of money from the Far East in other people's names could only have led the prosecution to suspect that these sums had been obtained nefariously.

Mr Fashanu had claimed that the money was from business dealings with Josef, but he had produced no evidence to support that. Mr Segers' conduct brought suspicion on himself and misled the prosecution into thinking that the case against him was stronger than it was.

The judge also refused Mr Segers' application for costs, saying he had told "the jury upon lie" to police about how he acquired £104,000 in a Swiss bank account.

Mr Justice McCullough made his rulings on costs shortly before the jury told him that there was no prospect of reaching even a majority verdict on the bribery charge against Mr Grobbelaar, who along with Mr Fashanu, Mr Segers and the businessman, Heng Suan Lin had been cleared of conspiracy on Thursday. The prosecution

said that it would offer no further evidence and the judge directed that a not guilty verdict be recorded.

After being formally discharged, the former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper nodded to his legal team, buttoned his blazer and walked from the dock at Winchester Crown Court. Outside, he kissed his wife Debbie and said: "To all the fans who have stood by me through all this, thank you very much indeed."

Mr Grobbelaar and Mr Segers may still, however, face FA disciplinary proceedings. And The Sun, whose initial allegations prompted the police investigation, said that it was fully prepared to defend itself if Mr Grobbelaar decided to continue his libel action against the newspaper.

Both Mr Grobbelaar and Mr Segers are believed to be keen to resume their careers, but first their cases will be considered by Sir John Smith, the former Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner who is reviewing the game's rules on betting and forecasting. Two disciplinary charges remain outstanding against Mr Grobbelaar — one of accepting a bribe and one of bringing the game into disrepute — and Sir John will recommend after reviewing the evidence from the two trials whether these should be reactivated.

If he concludes that there is a case to answer, Mr Segers might also face a disciplinary hearing at which the burden of proof would be lower than that required by the criminal courts.

Paying the price, page 5
Leading article, page 21



A Bosnian woman greets Diana, Princess of Wales, when she visited Tuzla yesterday as part of her campaign against landmines

Princess leads gossips to minefield

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN TUZLA

DIANA, Princess of Wales, yesterday put the speculation about her private life behind her and flew to Bosnia to concentrate on her public role.

Relaxed and smiling, the most photographed woman in the world said nothing about recent photographs of her with Mohamed Al Fayed's son Dodi, and went to visit the victims of landmines.

Her office had said that officially her trip was a private one. But even if she had not helped to bring the issue of landmines on to the world stage herself, her private visits are never that.

As she flew in over Sarajevo in the billionaire George Soros's private jet she would have seen not only row upon

row of ruined buildings but a crowd waiting on the runway to greet her. Among them were Ken Rutherford and his colleagues from the Landmine Survivors Trust, a handful of French peacekeeping troops and around 100 journalists.

She hopped from the plane and skipped across to meet Mr Rutherford, an American and himself a victim of a Somali landmine, whom she had met at a conference in London. Dressed casually in leggings, a denim shirt and navy blazer she greeted her hosts warmly.

The Princess was accompanied by two Scotland Yard detectives, her butler Paul Burrell and Lord Deedes, the former Daily Telegraph editor.

Maybe the Princess had had enough of photographers as she appeared not to notice

them or their calls for her to pose as she was whisked away for the journey to Tuzla. Security for the two-day trip is tight. So tight in fact that the French officer in charge of security at the airport learned of her visit only when the press pack rolled up.

En route the Princess held up the traffic for ten minutes as she stopped to look down over a valley containing the town of Olovo where American money had rebuilt a monastery and two mosques.

On the outskirts of Tuzla, which suffered some of the worst shelling, she called in at the ground floor flat of Franjo Kresic, 42, a Croat married to a Serb and who fought for the Bosnian Army. He had both legs blown off above the knee by a mine. The Princess stayed and talked to him for half an

hour. Then she went on to meet more victims in Tuzla itself having changed into Armani jeans and discarding the blazer in the clammy heat. She ignored questions about her romantic life as, still beaming, she was greeted by the local Mayor.

Lord Deedes, who had been with her all day, said she was not even thinking of her private life. "She's in excellent form, totally self-possessed," he said.

"The Princess has a knack of

putting her mind on what she is doing whatever the other distractions are. She has had practice at doing this. Her mind is totally on mines."

Mr Rutherford said that the visit had been arranged when he and his colleague Jerry White went to visit the Princess at Kensington Palace two weeks ago.

"She is the most renowned face in the world. For us to have her support is incredible. We are just honoured to have her here," he said.

Pound falls below FF10

Sterling fell by 4.58 pence to DM2.9249. Against the French franc the pound moved down from FF10.02 to FF9.85. Abbey National raised some mortgage rates to 8.45 per cent. Page 25

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Major finds voice on lecture circuit

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR is planning a visit to the Washington Speakers' Bureau, the agency which has Baroness Thatcher, Henry Kissinger and General Colin Powell on its books. It has arranged a week-long series of engagements in October in America. Details of the itinerary are being kept secret for security reasons.

Mr Major, whose salary was cut by more than half when he returned to the back benches, will be paid in the region of £32,000 for each speech and could earn more in a week than the £100,000 he was paid a year as Prime Minister.

But even overseas he will be haunted by his predecessor. Lady Thatcher, seven years after she fell from power, is still in most demand among retired international politicians. She commands about £45,000 for each hour-long speech on international affairs. A photograph with her can cost a further £600.

More speaking tours are being planned for Mr Major

while Lady Thatcher, who has earned about £20 million since she left Downing Street, is booked until next July.

Mr Major will make only a fleeting appearance at the Tory conference in Brighton which begins on October 7. The Times has learnt that he will stay for about four hours before flying directly to the US with his wife, Norma, for his first speaking engagement.

It will be an emotional appearance for Mr Major. When Lady Thatcher appeared on the conference platform for the first time after being ousted she was given an 11-minute standing ovation which dwarfed the reception for her successor. Mr Major can expect the roles to be reversed this time round.

But friends of his say that he is under no illusions about his staying power overseas. "He does not expect to be in demand as long as Lady Thatcher. He is a realist. But he wants to give it a try. He is forging a new role."

Henry Stokes, Managing Editor of the Commercial Appeal newspaper, which has carried out surveys of the leading lights on the lecture circuit, said: "Lady Thatcher is the brightest star. The only one who can match her is Colin Powell. People don't identify with John Major. What is he doing these days?"

Nurses spared from beheading

The threat of beheading for two British nurses in Saudi Arabia receded after a court in Australia ruled that the brother of the victim had no legal right to call for the death penalty.

And Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, a brother of King Fahd, said Lucille McLaughlin and Deborah Parry did not deserve to be executed. Page 3

Warne dashes England hopes

England, with six first-innings wickets standing, are 239 runs behind Australia after the second day of the fifth Test at Trent Bridge.

Hop, skip, silver

Jonathan Edwards finished second in the triple jump, winning Britain's fourth silver medal of the world championships in Athens. The winner was the Cuban Yoelvis Quesada. Page 40

Underwater rescues

In two separate underwater rescues a woman was saved from her car by a yachtsman in Southampton and a girl of seven survived 40 minutes in a car submerged in a quarry near Pontefract. Page 3

Heat and floods divide country

By RORY CARROLL

FREAKISH weather divided Britain in two yesterday with the hottest day of the year being reported in central London and torrential downpours and floods in the West Country.

Holidaymakers stranded in heavy rain in the south west drove hundreds of miles to the heatwave on the other side of the country.

The record 31.5C (88.7F) — the hottest recorded temperature in the country since last June — could reach 32 (90F) this weekend, the Met Office said. Temperatures in Birmingham, Norwich and Manchester climbed to 27C (81F) and Glasgow and Belfast reached the mid-70s yesterday. Coastal resorts were cooler and less humid than many cities, with Brighton, East Sussex, seeing 23C (73F) and Southampton 20C (79F).

The threat of floods continued in parts of Devon and Cornwall, with flash floods forcing the evacuation of nearly 1,000 people from a campsite near Honiton, east Devon, which experienced 3ft deep floods after 3in of rain fell in 45 minutes.

The Royal Marines and the Women's Royal Voluntary Service provided evacuees with blankets and sleeping bags as mopping-up operations started in a number of towns and villages. Worst hit

was Ottery St Mary, where firefighters had to rescue their own cars after the fire station was flooded. At the height of the flooding, the Environment Agency had alerts out on seven rivers, three of them red.

The hot spell, likely to end at the beginning of the week when thunder storms are forecast to hit many parts of England and Wales, proved too much for 800 Tyneside shipyard workers who downed tools in a lightning strike because their drinking water was not cold enough.

Employees of the Dutch-owned Swan Hunter yard walked out after rejecting a management offer of thousands of bottles of chilled mineral water, defying advice from their own GMB union officials. Work is unlikely to resume until Monday when chiller units are due to be fitted to the water supply.

In Dorset a Boxer dog died and another was treated for brain damage after their owner locked them in her car, one of several such incidents reported by the RSPCA.

Reports of better weather prompted some drenched holidaymakers in the south west and West Country to make trips of up to 300 miles to east coast resorts.

"It was chucking down where I was and I just drove

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About her fiancé, her father and her future

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Photo shows Princess kissing Dodi Fayed

Evidence of new romance could damage public standing, writes Emma Wilkins



Dodi Fayed, left, with his father. He is said to be "very relaxed" about the publicity

THE 17-year relationship between Diana, Princess of Wales and her adoring public will enter its most testing phase tomorrow when photographs of her kissing Dodi Fayed, her holiday companion, are published in a Sunday newspaper.

The photographs, which have cost the *Sunday Mirror* about £250,000, are said to show the couple swimming in the sea, embracing and sunbathing on a yacht owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, Mr Fayed's father. In some pictures, Mr Fayed has his arms around the Princess's waist and in one she is shown kissing him.

The publication will be the first time the public has seen the Princess romantically linked with a man other than her ex-husband, Prince Charles. Her relationship with Mr Fayed, who is said to be her fiancé, has been the subject of her divorce from Prince Charles.

The Princess's friendship with Mr Fayed was said to be "very relaxed" about the recent disclosures.

The appearance of the Princess on Thursday night at Mr Fayed's Mayfair home for dinner, in full knowledge of the waiting reporters and photographers, was being taken as a sign of the seriousness of her affection for the millionaire playboy.

Publication of the photographs mark an important landmark in the Princess's life. If the shots live up to expectations, they will be the clearest evidence that she is enjoying a love affair since her own admission on Panorama that Captain James Hewitt was the object of her affection. The Princess has also been linked with a succession of men including Will Carling, the former England rugby captain, the art dealer Oliver Hoare, and most recently the heart surgeon Hasnat Khan.

The newspaper deal was finalised yesterday after fierce competition from other tabloids including the *Mail on Sunday*, which is believed to have offered a higher sum after the contract with the *Sunday Mirror* had been drawn up. The *News of the World* offered a figure of

around £100,000 after viewing a set of 50 pictures.

The photographs, taken by an Italian paparazzo called Mario Brenna, show the Princess and her companion during their five-day cruise around Sardinia on the upper deck of his father's £15 million motor yacht, the *Jonikal*.

Mr Fayed declined to comment on his relationship with the Princess when he left his home in Park Lane, Mayfair, yesterday afternoon. He is due to attend the opening game of the season today at Fulham Football Club, which his father acquired recently.

There were celebrations yesterday in the offices of the *Sunday Mirror*, which is expected to print 500,000 extra copies on Sunday after heavy investment in advertising to day. The deal was brokered by Jason Fraser, a British photog-

rapher, who is acting as Mr Brenna's agent. His client looks set to become a millionaire from worldwide sales.

With two daily tabloid newspapers bidding for secondary rights to the photographs, sales in Britain alone could reach £500,000. Deals are believed to have been secured with *Paris Match* in France and *Bunte* magazine in Germany. There is also keen interest from magazines in Italy, Holland, America and Spain.

Phil Hall, editor of the *News of the World*, said he was not disappointed. "We didn't feel the photographs were worth any more than we offered. They were taken from 500 yards away. The only one which was good was a kiss picture in which you can't see Diana's face and the kiss is obscured by her head."

Hague goes public in search for new ideas to gain votes

By NICHOLAS WOOD

WILLIAM HAGUE is planning to reach out beyond his party in an attempt to give the Tories a new sense of direction. The Conservative leader and his senior colleagues are to embark on a giant consultation exercise involving professional and business groups and the public before drawing up proposals for the next Tory manifesto.

The exercise will include focus groups of voters of the kind pioneered in Britain by Tony Blair. The aim is to win popular consent for a fresh burst of Tory radicalism. A detailed programme for the policy review, drawn up by the Shadow Chancellor Peter Lilley, has been passed

to Mr Hague and will be discussed at an overnight meeting of the Shadow Cabinet near Bath in early September, then implemented after the party conference in October.

Mr Hague is expected to use his first speech to the conference as leader to spell out his blueprint for a fundamental rethink of Tory policy. Every area of policy will be examined by teams of shadow ministers working with independent experts. In a departure from past, non-Conservatives will be drawn into the exercise as the teams canvass the views of the general public and people working in areas such as health, education, the churches and business. The overall aim is said to be to rediscover the "sense of

purpose" that characterised the Thatcher years but was lost under John Major.

The first phase of the consultation exercise will concentrate on identifying the big new problems that will face the country over the next 10 years. By drawing the public into the process, senior Tories hope to build popular support for radical change, especially in state services. Groups and individuals will be asked to identify the problems and challenges looming on the horizon. The second stage, unlikely to be begun until after the 1998 conference, will focus on devising specific policies to meet the nation's concerns. The Shadow Cabinet meeting will also be presented with the party's election post-mortem.

Suicide MP had accused colleague

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A LABOUR politician named in the suicide note of Gordon McMaster yesterday admitted that the former MP for Paisley South had previously accused him of spreading rumours he was gay.

Tommy Graham, MP for the neighbouring constituency of Renfrewshire West, disclosed yesterday that Mr McMaster had confronted him three years ago and accused him of starting a whispering campaign.

Speaking in the *Glasgow Evening Times*, Mr Graham said: "Personally I did not care whether he was gay or what. It didn't enter my thoughts. It's not my style. There were always a million rumours...

because the guy was a bachelor there was a lot of people who did a bit of kidding."

He said that Mr McMaster, who was found dead in his home-filled car at his home in Johnstone, had accused him of calling him "a poof". Mr McMaster replied: "I've never called you a poof in my life."

Mr McMaster was named with Lord Dixon, the former Labour MP for Jarrow, who was Mr McMaster's boss in the Whips Office, in Mr McMaster's suicide note. A report has been prepared for the procurator fiscal. The Prime Minister has also ordered chief whip Nick Brown to carry out an investigation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lecturer sacked for paedophile views

A psychology lecturer who publicly approved of paedophilia with children over 12, providing they were above average intelligence, has been sacked by the University of Edinburgh. Chris Brand, 54, was dismissed "with immediate effect" after an internal disciplinary tribunal found him guilty of gross misconduct.

He was suspended last November after he published an Internet newsletter questioning the paedophilia charges brought against Daniel Gajdus, the Nobel prizewinner, in the United States. Mr Brand gained notoriety last year when he claimed whites were more intelligent than blacks.

Stone of Scone stays put

The Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone — the ancient symbol of Scottish nationhood on which the country's kings were crowned — is to stay in Edinburgh Castle despite pleas for it to be returned to its historic home at Scone Palace. Donald Dewar, Scottish Secretary, said consultation had shown a clear preference for the stone to be housed in Edinburgh Castle.

Spam quits Britain

A contract to make Spam is being switched from the Newforge food factory in Belle Vale, Liverpool, after 40 years. Hormel, the American firm that invented the product, said that it would be made in Denmark from next year. Spam's share of the canned-meat market has grown by about 11 per cent over the past three years and given employment to about 140 workers.

Holocaust denial Bill

Legislation to make it a criminal offence to deny the Holocaust is being considered by the Government. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said in a letter to the Jewish Board of Deputies that a Holocaust denial Bill might be proposed to counter neo-Nazi propaganda, even though it would be difficult to legislate. The move would bring Britain into line with other European countries.

Local Lawrence hearings

The Home Office inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence hopes to hold public hearings in south London near the scene of the killing. Sir William Macpherson of Cluay, the former High Court judge who is heading the investigation, said hearings would start later this year and he hoped they would be held in Greenwich. Mr Lawrence, 18, was murdered at a bus stop in Eltham in 1993.

Killer had stalked girls

The killer of Katerina Konova, a 12-year-old from a refugee family murdered in her home in Hammersmith, west London, stalked other young girls in the same area, Scotland Yard said. It linked the killing with two earlier incidents, one the same day in May, and the other in February, in which girls were followed home by a man of Middle Eastern appearance. Both escaped attack.

Cash sought for tin mine

Investors are being sought to save the last tin mine in Britain, South Crofty in Cornwall, which is due to close in six months after losing £33 million in ten years. Stephen Gately, the mine manager, said the shareholders would be happy to discuss the possibility of saving the mine, although as each week passed it would become increasingly difficult to put together a rescue plan.

Gasman hostage verdict

A man who held a gas fitter prisoner at knifepoint in his home because he was unhappy about work done on his central heating system was jailed for four years at the Old Bailey. Winston Prince, 36, of Clapham, south London, was convicted of falsely imprisoning William Carr, 34, and assault, but cleared of making a threat to kill. Mr Carr, 34, had a knife held to his stomach during the 1½-hour ordeal.

Radio 1's hits miss

Radio 1's audience has dropped below ten million a week for the first time after losing 1.3 million listeners in a year. It had up to 18 million listeners when it began in the late Sixties. Radio 3 has 2.3 million listeners — less than half Classic FM's figures — while Radio 5 Live is up slightly at 4.9 million. Radio 2 is increasing its market share at 8.6 million a week, while Radio 4 has 8.2 million listeners.

Pastor's widow recovers

The wife of the murdered British pastor Michael Pollard was "doing fine" after undergoing surgery following a roadside attack by bandits in Hungary. The operation on Jo Pollard's broken jaw "went better than expected" at the hospital in Nyiregyhaza, her daughter Rebecca said. Initially doctors thought that Mrs Pollard, 55, of Shipley, near Bradford, would need her jaw wired together.

Praise be for technology

A computer-based electronic notice board was launched in Britain this week, giving churches the chance to dispose of prayer books, hymn books and notice sheets. The system will display the words of hymns, scripture and liturgy. It is likely to be popular among charismatic and evangelical churches because it frees worshippers to express their devotion with body and arm movements.

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Court eases nurses' fears of execution

Australian judge silences calls for revenge, report Rachel Bridge and Bronwen Maddox

THE threat of execution for two British nurses accused of murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia, needed last night after a court in Australia ruled that their alleged victim's brother had no legal right to call for the death penalty if they were convicted.

In a separate development, a leading member of the Saudi royal family declared that the two women did not deserve to be executed.

Lawyers for Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, who are accused of killing Yvonne Gilford, are due to make their final sub-

missions tomorrow and a verdict is expected soon.

Under Saudi law the immediate family of a murder victim can call for the execution of the murderer, but only if their decision is unanimous. Frank Gilford, the dead woman's brother, from South Australia, has repeatedly called for the death penalty if the two nurses are found guilty and has said that his 24-year-old brother, Muriel, shared his view.

Yesterday, however, the Acting South Australian Supreme Court Justice Len King ruled that Mrs Gilford, who suffers

from Alzheimer's disease, was mentally incapable of deciding the nurses' fate. He placed a restraining order on Mr Gilford, barring him from repeating his call for execution.

The judge also ordered that a file on Mrs Gilford's mental condition be released to the nurses' lawyers within five days and that an Australian doctor be allowed to prepare a report on its contents for the Saudi courts.

Mrs Gilford lives in a nursing home in Adelaide and, according to Mr Gilford's wife, knows little of what is

going on except that her daughter is dead.

Miss Parry, 38, and Miss McLauchlan, 31, are accused of murdering Miss Gilford in the King Fahd medical complex in Dhahran, an oil city in the east of Saudi Arabia, in December. Miss Gilford was found suffocated and stabbed in her room. She had also been bludgeoned with a hammer and robbed.

Michael Dark, representing the nurses, said: "We were given until Sunday to produce evidence showing that Mrs Gilford is not mentally competent. We asked Frank Gilford's

lawyers if they would let us have any evidence to confirm that she is in a nursing home, but they refused. We didn't have much choice but to ask the courts in Australia to help us, which they have done."

Michael Boylan, Mr Gilford's lawyer, argued that the request on behalf of the nurses aimed to interfere in the Saudi proceedings and was an abuse of legal process. He said that Mr Gilford's comments had been made through his lawyers in Saudi Arabia and were therefore outside the jurisdiction of the Australian court.

After the ruling, Mr Boylan



McLauchlan, left, and Parry: verdicts this week

said: "One doesn't know what the effect will be as there has not even been a verdict in Saudi Arabia yet."

The Supreme Court ruling came on the same day as an interview with Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz, a brother of King Fahd, was published in the Washington Times. "I am

telling you that in this case there will be no beheadings," Prince Talal said in the interview in Istanbul. "From my experience with Saudi law, the nurses do not deserve execution."

He attributed part of his argument to talks with the nurses' lawyer. "He feels they will have a just trial and that there will be no beheadings."

The interview is the first public statement by a member of the Saudi royal family about the outcome of the case. Prince Talal is close to King Fahd and is involved in international development programmes to help the kingdom, although he does not hold a government post.

Sailor rescues woman trapped in sunken car

Yachtsman gives driver oxygen from aqualung as he frees her after harbour plunge, reports Tim Jones

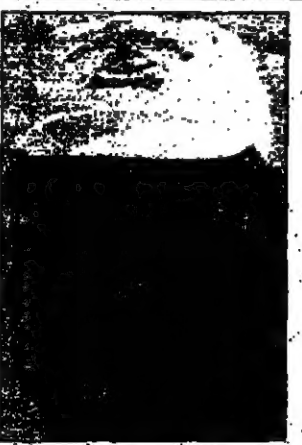
A WOMAN whose car plunged into a marina, trapping her 20 ft under water, was saved by a yachtsman who dived in with an aqualung and forced oxygen into her mouth as he freed her.

For more than three minutes, Stuart Bowen-Davies used the aqualung's mask to pass the oxygen between them as he struggled to release the woman from the car. Marjesta Chopra, 36, had been helping her father-in-law, Jivan Chopra, to jump start his car when she started her own car, a Volvo, and it shot forward after she mistook the accelerator for the brake.

It crashed through handrails before falling 18 ft on to a wooden pontoon at the yacht marina at Ocean Village in Southampton. It bounced from the pontoon and ended up in the sea, where it was speedboat and a motorboat before splashing into the water.

Mr Bowen-Davies, 37, who had been standing on the yacht, stripped down to his shorts and dived in. He said: "I realised the driver must have knocked herself out when she hit the water. I was about 100 metres away but fortunately I am a very strong swimmer and reached the spot quickly. I freed her from the car for a couple of minutes as it sank but I was getting nowhere."

Someone threw him some diving gear. "I couldn't really



Bowen-Davies freed Mrs Chopra from car

see anything and had to make my way to the car by touch alone. When I got down to the car, I was around in the car, and I was about 20 ft under water. The door because it had landed before splashing into the water.

Mr Bowen-Davies, 37, who had been standing on the yacht, stripped down to his shorts and dived in. He said: "I realised the driver must have knocked herself out when she hit the water. I was about 100 metres away but fortunately I am a very strong swimmer and reached the spot quickly. I freed her from the car for a couple of minutes as it sank but I was getting nowhere."

Someone threw him some diving gear. "I couldn't really

hero really. I was just lucky to be in the right place at the right time. After she was rescued I wouldn't say I was crying, but I was a bit emotional."

Later he returned to his 80 ft yacht, *Creighton's Naturally*, and, with a group of paying businessmen, set off for a corporate day out at Cowes.

While the car was on the surface, two boat repairs, Rod Jenkins, 42, and his colleague, Jim Fry, 42, had dived in to try to free her. Mr Fry said: "We tried for about two minutes to get her to open the car door."

"It seemed like forever and all the time the car was slowly sinking."

He said that Mrs Chopra seemed unable to help herself. She was frozen to the steering wheel. Her hands were clutching it and she would not let go. We tried to tell her to wind the window down but she would not listen.

Mrs Chopra, of Broadlands, Southampton, who has two sons, Bijay, 14 and Ashwin, 6, was taken to Southampton General Hospital where her condition was described as stable. The car was later recovered by police.

A seven-year-old girl was in a critical condition last night after being trapped for 40 minutes in a submerged car. Firemen used their breathing apparatus as improvised aqualungs and weighed themselves with pieces of stone to reach the child under 20 ft of water in a disused quarry near Pontefract in west Yorkshire.

She was brought to the surface unconscious, but revived in an ambulance taking her to Pontefract Infirmary. The quarry, at Darrington, near Pontefract, known locally as Womersley Swimming Pool and the Blue Lagoon, is popular with swimmers and picnickers.

The car is believed to have rolled down an embankment and plunged down a drop of about four metres into the water as the child's mother drove home after spending an afternoon in the sun.



Matthew Malyon, aged four, is towered by puppets at the 'world's largest' Punch and Judy show in Eastbourne, East Sussex, yesterday

Weather

Continued from page 1
down this morning. I think I made the right choice, it's beautiful here," said Tony Daykin, 41, who spent five hours driving 250 miles from Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire to Great Yarmouth.

Alan Carr, tourism officer for Great Yarmouth Borough Council, said the town was filling up with refugee tourists. "We have had a lot of calls from people who have cancelled their holidays in the South West because the weather is so bad and want to come to Yarmouth."

Apart from isolated threats of heavy showers, the Met Office said the rest of Britain outside the south west would remain dry and sunny. "Inland parts of central and southern England will see the really high temperatures while temperatures along the coast will remain around the low 20s due to light sea breezes which will create gorgeous conditions," said a spokesman.

He said good weather coming from the Continent and remaining over central Britain was responsible for the surge in temperatures. But he stressed that there was still a threat of flash flooding in some areas.

Forecast, page 24

Neighbours angry as family of shot boy return to street

Judge warned Dillon's mother over drug deals, reports Paul Wilkinson

ANGRY neighbours have protested after the mother and stepfather of a five-year-old boy shot dead returned to their home in Bolton yesterday.

Residents in the close-knit community said the decision by John Bates and Jane Hull, his girlfriend, to return had put their families at risk.

Last night as a petition was launched calling for the couple to be moved, it emerged that a judge had warned Hull, 29, to keep her son Dillon away from drug dealing. She had appeared before Recorder Arthur Noble last year to admit allowing Bates, 28, to sell drugs from her previous home in Blackburn.

"Putting her on probation for two years, Judge Noble said at Burnley Crown Court: 'I hope you will bring your son up properly and make sure he doesn't have any such involvement. I hope you don't leave

this building in any sense feeling that you have been let off."

The judge said she appeared to have been dominated by Bates but he would not jail her for the sake of her son. He hoped she would have nothing more to do with Bates until he had given up drug-taking. At an earlier hearing Bates was jailed for 21 months for dealing in heroin. He had told the court that Hull had turned a blind eye so he could fund his addiction to heroin.

It emerged that Codie, Dillon's baby brother, was born addicted to heroin and is still in hospital three weeks after his birth. Hull's father, Robert, said: "Codie was born addicted to drugs, that's why he's still in hospital. Jane is a registered heroin addict."

Brian Brown, 27, who lives close to where Dillon was killed and Bates was wounded on Wednesday, intends send-



Dillon Hull: shot dead outside his home

ing the petition to the police, council leaders and MPs. He said: "We want them out, they should never have been allowed to return here in the first place."

Greater Manchester Police are convinced that Bates was targeted as part of a turf war over drug-dealing. He and Dillon were attacked as they

walked to buy a bottle of pop at a local shop.

Detective Superintendent Peter Ellis, the head of the murder inquiry, said police had agreed to the couple's request to return home "after lots of consultation". The Greater Manchester Police Authority yesterday offered a £10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the gunman.

Mr Ellis said a post-mortem examination showed Dillon had died from a single shot that hit him an inch in front of his right ear. He said the gunman could have shot Bates earlier when he was on his own. Bates had told police that when he left his house to look for Dillon shortly before the shooting he saw the gunman. Police made one of the largest drug seizures in Britain yesterday when they recovered 200 kg of heroin worth up to £100 million. The haul was found in a Slovenian-registered lorry in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. Two men have been arrested.



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Cleared footballers will pay the price

Costs for the defendants in the 'match fixing' trial vary from £650,000 for Fashanu to £30,000 for Grobbelaar, say Stephen Farrell & Lin Jenkins

THEY may all be innocent before the law, but the four defendants in the 'match-fixing' trial are far from equal in financial terms. John Fashanu, who received no legal aid, is worth more than the other three defendants put together with several millions to spare.

Fashanu, once described himself as "35 per cent footballer, 65 per cent businessman" and has an estimated fortune of £6 million earned from football, television, property and public relations.

He was sent to a Barnardo's home by his Nigerian parents as a child and worked as a builder before starting his professional footballing career as a £175,000-a-week apprentice at Norwich City. Quickly moving to Lincoln, Millwall and then Wimbledon, by 1993 he was earning £1.3 million a year. It included £5,000 a week from Wimbledon, where he was on a bonus of £2,500 for

every goal. His *Gladiators* job alone earned him £100,000.

He joined Aston Villa for £1.35 million in 1994, receiving a £200,000 fee, and when a knee ligament injury ended his career two years ago he received a £500,000 insurance payout.

For the two trials, Fashanu engaged one counsel, Trevor Burke, and the high-profile showbusiness solicitor, Henri Brandman. Mr Burke told the court that although defence costs were kept to an "absolute minimum", the case had been "a very considerable financial strain" on his client. Mr Burke is estimated to have cost Fashanu £200,000 and Mr Brandman £450,000.

The loss of his column in *The Sun* newspaper when the allegations first broke, and of his *Gladiators* job when the case went to trial, together cost him £250,000. He was forced to sell his £300,000, seven-bed "penthouse" flat above his Fash Enterprises

office in St John's Wood, north London.

The judge said Fashanu had brought suspicion on himself by paying money from the Far East into three bank accounts held in different names. The court was told he received £250,000 between 1991 and 1994 from Johannes Josef, an Indonesian multi-millionaire, and his wife Elly. The money was paid into accounts under the names Melissa Kassa-Mapsal, his then fiancée, Miss Alao, a cousin, and Buckle, a former business agent who knew nothing of the arrangement.

The other three defendants all received full or partial legal aid. Grobbelaar, 39, had to wait a day longer than his co-accused to walk free from court after the jury failed to reach a verdict on a final charge against him. He lives near Guildford in Surrey with his wife, Debbie, and daughters, Tahli, 12, and Olivia, 9. He earned £160,000 a year in his last four seasons at Liverpool, investing part of the money in the safari business project with Chris Vincent. Last night he refused to discuss his financial affairs but said he intended to continue in football and had received three calls from interested clubs in the last two days.

Legal experts estimate he will have to pay more than £30,000 towards the cost of his team of barristers and solicitors, who had worked on the case since his arrest in March 1995. He also faces additional expenses after threatening legal action against *The Sun*.

Hans Segers, 35, played for six years at Wimbledon, where he earned £80,000 a year until his final season, when his pay was increased to £130,000. He later moved to Wolverhampton Wanderers.

He is married with two children and lives in Fleet, Hampshire. Despite being granted partial legal aid, he faces a bill of £65,000. He is considering an appeal against the judge's refusal to pay his costs. He said: "It was a big blow but the main thing is I

ASHLEY COOMES



Bruce Grobbelaar is welcomed by his wife, Debbie, yesterday after being found not guilty on a final charge

Loss of costs is case of history repeating itself

By CAROL MIDGLEY

FOR Henri Brandman it is the second time this year that he has secured the acquittal of a celebrity defendant only for the judge to deny them their legal costs.

In May he represented the boxer Nigel Benn, who was cleared after an eight-day trial of smashing a glass into the face of his former best friend, Ray Sullivan.

But Judge Derek Inman declined to award the £50,000 costs, telling Mr Benn's legal team: "In my view he did bring the prosecution on himself." Mr Benn had also been defended by the barrister Trevor Burke, who represented John Fashanu.

Yesterday Mr Justice Charles McCullough, QC, declined to award Mr Fashanu and Hans Segers their costs. He said: "It seems clear that Mr Fashanu's own conduct brought suspicion on himself and led the prosecution into thinking that the case against him was stronger than it was."

There are several precedents in recent legal history where, even after a defendant has been acquitted, the judge has used his discretion. In 1994 Gida Rater, the widow

of a Harley Street doctor, was found not guilty of using a patient's credit card and forging cheques. However, Judge Christopher Horder criticised her conduct and refused to award costs after she claimed she had seen her late husband taking cocaine and morphine with the patient in question.

Judge Horder told her: "Those who choose to say absolutely nothing and reserve a very surprise defence until the last moment do not in my view deserve costs."

In 1986 a dating agency manager, Scott Fenton-Palmer, was acquitted of raping a 26-year-old woman. But Judge John Gower, QC, refused him his defence costs, saying that he had "considerably strengthened the case against himself". In 1993 Fenton-Palmer was convicted of another rape and jailed for ten years.

Yesterday Geoffrey Robertson, QC, said: "Costs normally follow the event. However, the judge has the discretion to deprive a successful defendant of costs, for example if he thinks that the defendant has brought suspicion upon himself."

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John Fashanu and his wife, Melissa, left, outside Winchester Crown Court after the verdicts were announced, together with Hans Segers and his wife, Astrid

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Deer estates braced for battle with the drive-by poachers

HIGHLAND gamekeepers are introducing 24-hour surveillance to combat roadside shootings of deer by a new breed of commercial poacher.

Last year poaching became big business for criminal gangs as the BSE scare sent venison prices soaring from about 80p a pound to a high of £1.40. Poachers were suddenly able to earn up to £200 per carcass and thousands of pounds for one night's work. The result was roadside shootings and 100mph car chases in areas where locals usually do not bother to lock their front doors.

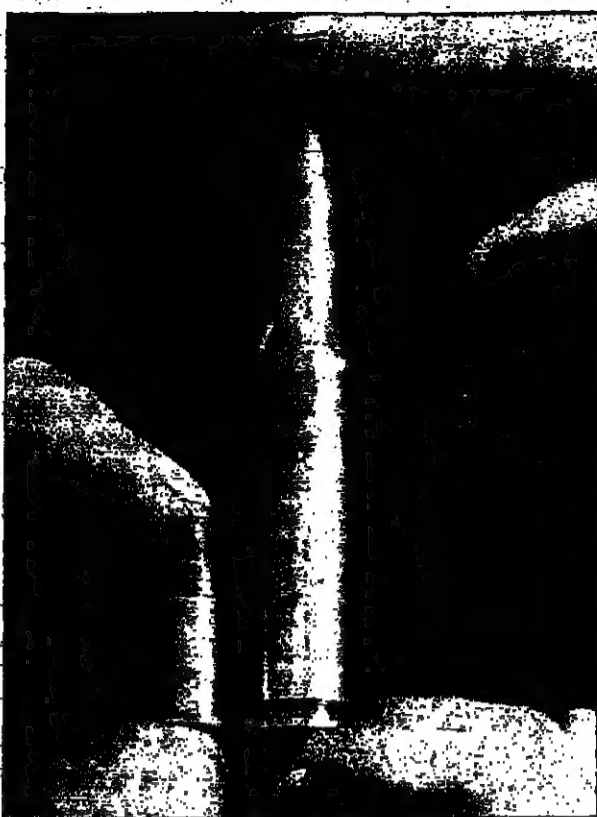
Poachers are no longer lone stalkers, but gangs of men, often unemployed, with police records for assault, house-breaking and drugs offences. Last month a gamekeeper suffered eye injuries after his windscreen was shattered by a rifle blast as he chased a group of suspects.

With Monday heralding the start of the country sports season, estate owners are braced for a battle. Squads of stalkers are preparing to provide round-the-clock watches on vulnerable herds and will patrol Highland roads with radios and police back-up.

Anything suspicious will be reported and every car that passes will be logged. Police are ready to respond with roadblocks, vehicle searches and DNA-testing of suspect carcasses.

The true scale of the problem is not known, as the evidence is largely anecdotal, but figures on estate culls produced by the Deer Commission for Scotland show that about one in ten red deer is now shot by "others", a category that embraces legal culls and illegal poaching. Police believe that hundreds of deer, including pregnant

Organised gangs make thousands of pounds for one night of roadside slaughter, reports Shirley English



The smaller .22 bullets used by poachers make less noise than hunting rifle bullets, but often fail to kill

hinds grazing at Highland roadides, were shot by poachers last year.

The gangs, often from the cities of Scotland and the North of England, usually operate as two teams in two vehicles: one to shoot and the other to collect carcasses. Some use rifles with infra-red

night-sights, packs of dogs and scanners to monitor police radios.

According to Jock Logie, gamekeeper at the Loch Luichart estate in Wester Ross, dead deer are cut up by the roadside and unwanted heads and legs left behind. Wounded animals, hit by

illegal, low-calibre .22 bullets, are left to die. On a neighbouring estate a gang shot 20 stags in one night last winter, firing from a van by the light of the headlights. Eleven wounded animals were left to die and were found later by a group of stalkers who jointly patrol three quarters of a million acres.

Mr Logie, 55, a gamekeeper for 40 years, said: "Their way of killing is an atrocity. They are thugs in every respect and vandals of a way of life."

He said that local poachers used traditional stalking skills to hunt a stag and rarely left any trace of their visits, but the new gangs were nothing more than thieves.

An old poacher from Muir of Ord, who would not be named, said: "The people coming in from the cities can't even shoot properly and they couldn't tell a hind from a stag. They shoot out of season, which we never did, and will kill hinds in calf."

Deer stalking is worth about £5 million a year to the Highland economy and, according to landowners, poaching is no longer a question of harmless redistribution of wealth. The scale of the slaughter, in which half the season's arranged stag cull can be taken in one night, makes estate management difficult.

Lady Eliza Leslie Melville, whose family owns the Loch Luichart estate, said it was upsetting for keepers who had spent the year maintaining the ecological balance of the estate, feeding deer in winter and selecting stags for the annual cull, to have their efforts undermined by one night's poaching.

The crime wave has also raised suspicions that some unscrupulous game dealers or



A hind on the Loch Luichart estate, Wester Ross. One carcass can fetch £200

crofters may be involved in distributing unchecked meat. Lady Eliza recently asked the Deer Commission to look into the possibility of searching game dealers' premises for illegal carcasses, but the commission replied that it was not a policing body.

Dick Youngson, technical

director at the commission, said that deer poaching was not so widespread as to upset the national cull of deer. He said the commission was speaking to the Scottish Office about concerns that the courts did not take poaching cases seriously enough.

Ultimately, it may be mar-

ket forces that come to the rescue of the estate owners: venison prices have fallen back to about 60p a pound, leaving the poachers to recalculate their profit margins.

Clive Aslet, page 20
Glorious Twelfth,
Weekend, page 1

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Race rock' organiser charged

Police investigating plans to hold a rock concert for hundreds of neo-Nazis this weekend have charged a 29-year-old Cardiff man with public-order offences. His 22-year-old girlfriend and two American men, aged 22 and 25, were released without charge. Police are still hunting for the venue for the concert, which coincides with a rally to mark 50 years of Indian independence.

Jail phone curb

Telephone "smart cards" are to be introduced into all prisons to prevent stalkers reaching victims from jail. The cards, allowing inmates to call only pre-approved numbers, have been tested at Full Sutton prison for a year.

Clean getaway

Police are to place electronic tags on clothes on washing lines in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, to trace thieves who steal the more expensive items. Newcastle United shirts costing from £40 are a particular target.

Firebomb shock

An incendiary bomb, left hidden under a table at a coffee shop in south Belfast, fell into a woman's lap as she took her seat. Police alerted by staff cleared the area. The device was taken away for examination.

Contest venue

The National Indoor Arena in Birmingham will be the venue for the next Eurovision song contest, in May. This year's contest, in Dublin, was won by Britain's entry, Love Shine A Light, sung by Katrina and the Waves.

Problem solved

Complaints about a foul smell and falls of white ash affecting homes and gardens in Maidstone, Kent, have led to the discovery of a mechanical fault at the town's crematorium. Repairs did not delay services.

Children to cost £100,000 each

No, it's not a new tax on children. Worse, this is the real cost you can expect to spend bringing up a child if you are an ordinary family on an average income. And that's after you've taken child benefit into account.

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These shock findings come from 'What Price a Child?', an investigative study into the cost of child-rearing by well-known consumer journalist and broadcaster Jan Walsh.

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Startling fact number 2

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£100,000 it takes to bring up a child. So Why don't you? Why don't so many others?

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Virgins team up to put chants in the chart

By Ruth Gledhill

THE mystical hymns of a 12th-century nun appear to be heading for the top of the pop charts after being set to dance beats. Hildegard von Bingen's hymns were a hit when launched in the clubs of Ibiza last weekend.

Divine Works is being backed by a £200,000 publicity campaign by Virgin. The album, a fusion of "medieval chant, contemporary sounds and heavenly vocals", was put together by Klaus Zundel, who created *Sacred Spirit*, an album that fused native American chants and modern music.

Hildegard von Bingen was a mystic and writer who died in 1179. She became a Benedictine nun at 18 and abbess at 38. The discovery of her music in the 1970s helped to inspire the popularity of chant and "spiritual" music over the past two decades.



HILDEGARDIS a Virgin Prophetess, Abbess of 51 Repts Nunnery. She died at Bingen 1179. aged 32 years.

Hildegard von Bingen inspired the popularity of spiritual "mood" music

Trivia of parish life 'blocks the message'

The Archbishop of Canterbury says young people hungry for spirituality are put off, reports Ruth Gledhill

CLERGY and congregations are getting caught up in the trivia of parish life and failing to help a new generation to find God, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In a sermon to be delivered in New Zealand tomorrow, Dr George Carey will argue that some congregations are turning new believers away from church with their inward-looking obsessions with parish politics, the flower rota or the Church's teaching on sex.

Dr Carey will warn that they are in danger of making the Anglican Church an irrelevance and reducing it to a state where it is neither dead nor alive. He is concerned that too many "mediocre" clergy are caught up in "churchy affairs", which is putting off young people who are hungry for spirituality.

The Archbishop, drawing

near to the end of a three-week visit to Australia and New Zealand, is due to preach his latest message at a choral eucharist at Wellington Town Hall tomorrow morning.

In the address he has prepared for delivery, he says: "Many congregations are growing numerically. Yet something still blocks the message from reaching a generation that is hungry spiritually."

Examining the cause, he says: "Coming as I do from a family without a churchgoing background, let me say with sadness that it is sometimes we who get in the way." He argues that too many clergy are failing to live the Christian faith as they should and are obstructing the Christian message "by reducing the staggering glory of God who became man by the mediocrity



Carey will speak at Wellington Town Hall

of lives caught up in churchy affairs.

Dr Carey quotes from a verse entitled *The Bishop's Last Farewell to his Clergy*: "Tell my priests when I am gone: O'er me to shed no tears; for I shall be no deadlier than they have been for years."

He adds: "Congregations too can get in the way, if they

reduce the message of the Kingdom of God to something that focuses too narrowly on the concerns of the local church, the Christmas bazaar, the church council meetings, the flower rota, the organist's playing or on particular issues such as the future of the liturgy or our teaching about human sexuality."

He continues: "If we create barriers, the Church can become irrelevant. It somehow hangs about on the fringes of social life, not quite dead and, indeed, not appearing to be dead, but somehow not alive either."

He says Christians must instead challenge the notion that people no longer need God. "Not only is the Church in good heart in many countries, religion shows no sign of dying anywhere in the world."

"Somehow the Church has to recapture the authenticity of Jesus, who still continues to meet those who are searching for a deeper sense of satisfaction in life."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 12

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Credo

Trust in God to prove His existence

John Haldane

Last year I was involved in an academic debate with another philosopher. Our exchange was in the form of a book in which we took turns to present our cases for atheism and theism, followed by chapters criticising one another's arguments. There was no clear victor, nor did either of us change our minds about the central question of whether there is a God. It would have been surprising had one of us converted, for the main points pro and con — chance and necessity; evil and providence — are ones we each have fairly settled views about.

Unlike the two of us, I suspect that most people are agnostically disposed and this set me thinking about what might be said to someone who asks, with open heart and mind, "What reason can you give me to believe in God?" In Hebrew scripture we read of "proof contests": Jews or Christians in dispute with pagans might find themselves challenged to invoke their God to prove His existence or power.

Scripture warns, however, that God will not be tested and it might therefore seem impious to seek that kind of sign. God's will is not something to be commanded; recall the saying "Man proposes, God disposes". Nonetheless, I think it is legitimate to turn to Heaven and say, "If there is a God, show that it is so."

Christians believe in the communion of saints, in those who have died in grace and are blessed in the company of God. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that the sanctity of the deceased may show itself through the efficacy of their intercession with God

on behalf of the living. This is the basis for the requirement of an attested miracle in the Vatican process of canonisation. Contrary to a common misunderstanding, the belief is not that the saint effects a cure, say, on his or her own account. Everything comes from God, but He may grant a petition raised in eternity on behalf of those living in time and this petition may be for the grace to help them to believe.

That idea allowed, may we not also approach God directly? Of course, Christ instructs us how to do so in the *Our Father*. But this presumes prior belief. What of those for whom the need is to know whether there is a Father which art in Heaven? Here I return to the agnostic and the call to Heaven: "Show yourself."

Understood now as a plea and not as an order, it is not implausible, but it may yet be unreasonable. Hebrew and Christian scripture teach that God's relationship with mankind is primarily one of covenant: a partnership between unequals, and a relationship in which the first question that arises is what would you have us do? The answer is plain: love God and do his will.

Those who seek reason to believe in God, and are looking for something that will show itself in their lives, would do well to enter into a speculative covenant with the God who they are not sure is there. Live as if dependent on the Father in Heaven and follow the commandments, and God will enter the open heart and that fact will become clear. Not every proof takes the form of an argument.

John Haldane is Professor of Philosophy in the University of St Andrews.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

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Mandelson outburst at BBC overshadows poll anniversary

'News fixer' dislikes being the news himself, reports Andrew Pierce

PETER MANDELSON'S carefully co-ordinated celebrations to mark Labour's 100 days in office were overshadowed yesterday when he became embroiled in a fierce public row over his role. He accused the BBC for focussing on alleged media management and ignoring the Government's achievements.

Appearing on Radio 4's *The World at One*, the Minister without Portfolio had been asked a stream of questions about his declaration in *The*

ment is because you really rather prefer talking about yourselves and your work and your lives in the media, than talking about things that interest the bulk of the population.

"I'm talking about their schools and their health service. I'm talking about their fear of crime. I'm talking about unemployment and poverty in this country. This week we've had day in and day out a preoccupation with yourselves. I think it's become very boring and very tedious."

Earlier this week, *The World at One* had carried reports suggesting that Mr Mandelson had manipulated news at the weekend to divert attention from Robin Cook's marriage break-up. BBC officials said that there had been a long-running feud between the programme and Labour's top "spin doctor". Mr Mandelson refused to answer questions as to why, as a non-Cabinet minister, Mr Blair had left him in such an exalted position while he was on holiday in Tuscany.

At a press conference, Mr Mandelson and Mr Prescott attempted to brush off damaging headlines over a fourth interest-rate rise, defeat in the Uxbridge by-election, and the suicide of the Labour MP Gordon McMaster, which has prompted an internal inquiry. Mr Prescott said that the Government had shown itself to be modern, fair and strong: "We have had a flying start."

He said: "I think the reason why media people like you like talking about news manage-

Nobody could now say that Labour was the same as the Tories, broke promises, was not governing as new Labour, was not up to the job, or was "selling out" on Europe.

But many of the questions again focussed on Mr Mandelson's role as the architect of policy presentation. He again criticised the preoccupation with his wide-ranging duties. He said: "I've never heard such a stream of vain-



Mandelson and Prescott yesterday: trying to focus on the party's achievements and a "flying start"

glorious, self-indulgent questions from members of the media about how they are allegedly managed by me. I'm sorry if you're not doing your job properly, such as you have to write your scripts and fix your headlines."

The Conservatives, who had focussed their attack on Labour's first 100 days by highlighting the "£300 annual cost" to average household through interest rate rises and

the cut in mortgage tax relief, switched their firepower to Mr Mandelson. Francis Maude, the Shadow Culture Secretary, said: "Peter Mandelson seems to be suffering from midsummer madness verging on megalomania. He has begun to think of himself as Prime Minister-in-waiting. During the BBC interview, he became increasingly hysterical."

A Labour MP criticised the party for over-emphasis on

presentation. Ann Clwyd said: "We're not androids. We're not going to be manipulated and we are going to speak out about things that we disagree with. There are those of us who kept very tight lips up to May 1, and after that said if we have anything critical or anything good to say, we will say it."

Leading article, letters, page 21

Normal service is resumed after a winning start

By MARK HENDERSON

THINGS could only get better. And within a few days of Tony Blair's victory on May 1, they did. Britain basked in glorious May sunshine. We won the Eurovision song contest for the first time in 15 years and building society windfalls sent the feelgood factor soaring.

The England cricket team trounced Australia in the one-day international and the

first Test. Our footballers could do no wrong. England beat Poland at football, then won the Tournoi de France against Italy, France and Brazil. Scotland won matches against Malta and Belarus.

The British Lions triumphed in South Africa. Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski were doing well at Wimbledon: Chris Boardman wore the yellow jersey after his prologue victory in the Tour de France; and Colin

THE FEELGOOD FACTOR

Montgomery was said to be the only man who could beat Tiger Woods to the Open golf championship. This was to be Britain's summer of sport.

The May weather confounded the forecasters, staying bright, hot and sunny, despite predictions of a wet month. "New Labour, new weather," quipped George Robertson, the new Defence

Secretary, as he strolled down Whitehall on May 2 in blazing sunshine.

"New Labour, new cricket," said John Prescott, celebrating the England team's astonishing early-season form.

Four Tests on, and 100 days into the Blair Government, something approaching normal service has been resumed. Australia have a hand

and a half on the Ashes after England batting collapses at Old Trafford and Headingley. Rusedski and Henman were thrashed in the Wimbledon quarter finals, and Montgomery failed at Troon.

Boardman crashed out of the Tour, and even England's World Cup prospects took a knock with an ankle injury to Alan Shearer.

Building society windfalls for some were offset by inter-

est rate rises for all. And for all our Eurovision success, a single by the American rappers Puff Daddy and Faith Evans, *I'll Be Missing You*, has been the longest-lived summer number one.

And the weather? Labour's historical knack of bringing the rain with election victories turned out to be delayed, not reversed. Britain splashed its way through the wettest June this century, and floods hit the South at the start of August.

THE VERDICT

Lord Blake, Conservative historian: "The Government has got off to quite a good start, but it is euphoric and arrogant. Pride comes before a fall. Making morality important in foreign policy is a big change."

Madsen Pirie, president of the Adam Smith Institute: "The new Government comes in with an energy and vigour that its predecessor lacked. I don't think it means a permanent new era, but it does mean a fresh approach. It has a tight grip and so far has proved competent. Independence for the Bank of England was such an imaginative and exciting step it boded well for a radical and dynamic approach."

Michael Dobbs, novelist and former Tory official: "It was summed up by Cherie Blair on the morning after the election when she opened her front door to accept some flowers. Her hair was a mess and she looked like she'd had only three hours' sleep. She looked shocked to find the photographers still camped outside. It was a reminder that even at the height of your success, the image-makers don't always get there first."

Jilly Cooper, novelist: "It's exciting. Everything has been changing and everyone seems so happy about it. Even Robin Cook's marriage break-up became his 're-structured marriage'. I'm delighted because it looks like they'll end quarantine for dogs. And they've been so nice to Camilla and Charles. I voted Tory because I just love John and Norma but if there was an election tomorrow I would vote for Blair."



Alan Clark, Tory MP: "Initially, I was impressed. Blair did a lot of things we fumbled or got wheelspin trying to do. But I think he's wrecked it by getting down into the gutter with all these showbusiness people. Of course, people who read the tabloids may like it."

Barry Norman, film critic: "In town that day people had a spring in their step and that hasn't subsided yet. The film industry has been very impressed. You never thought Major or his arts ministers really knew anything."

Robert Harris, novelist and Blair confidante: "It was like going on holiday. The country didn't realise how much it needed the break until it got there. We don't have to listen to Michael Howard any more, which is a great release. The election proved you don't have to be a Tory to do a top job."

Carla Lane, screenwriter and animal welfare campaigner: "It has been like heaven. The concern for animals has multiplied and where we were faced with a brick wall on live animal exports, we now have ministers who listen. I'm disappointed about the block that seems to be put on the fox-hunting ban. The supporters were able to take the day off work, while the majority tended to be quieter."



Steve Norris, former Tory minister: "I give them 4/10 for activity, 4/10 for constructive government and 9/10 for presentation. If I were William Hague, I'd buy Peter Mandelson."

Sir Tim Rice, lyricist and Tory cheerleader: "There was a general feeling of wanting a change without a change of direction, and that's what people have got."

John Gray, Oxford don and ex-Thatcherite: "What's striking is how little the mood of May 2 has changed. This Government is still in a position to embody national consensus, in a way no other Government has done."

Steve Bell, cartoonist: "The terrible thing is that I've lost John Major for ever, with his underpants. It is a shame as he was a wonderful character to draw."

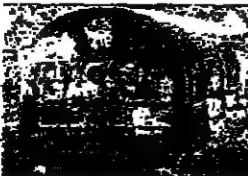
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Pitcher in
fight to
stay on
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Director
at M&S
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY AUGUST 9 1997

Pitcher in fight to stay on at United

By Christine Buckley and Jason Nisell

SIR Desmond Pitcher was yesterday fighting a rear-guard action to remain as executive chairman of United Utilities after falling out with Sir Peter Middleton, the senior non-executive on the water and electricity group's board.

Sir Peter, who is also chairman of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, has been meeting with institutional investors who are pressing for Sir Desmond's early retirement in the wake of the sacking of Brian Staples, United's chief executive. However, the company said that Sir Peter was operating without a formal mandate, a statement that has angered Sir Peter, who believes he is working within the spirit of this week's Hampel committee report on corporate governance.

United has promised to tell the City of its plans for succession in October. Sir Desmond and Derek Green, the recently appointed chief executive, have said they will stay on until 2000, when Sir Desmond will retire, and this will clarify what happens in the meantime.

However, a leading pension fund said yesterday: "Sir Desmond has brought the matter to a head. It is time to bring in a new non-executive chairman and if there is no one to take the role immediately maybe appoint a senior non-executive in a temporary role."

Getting rid of Sir Desmond now could be an expensive

move. The man, described last year as "king of the fat cats" has a two-year contract paying a basic salary of £30,000 a year.

Sir Desmond has a formidable reputation for loving a fight, and thriving in such matters is critical. The company faces competition in the electricity market and a supply price review next year. Sir Desmond has been closely involved in United's plans for the electricity market.

Sir Peter, who has meetings scheduled with shareholders to the end of next month, has been accused by some of those close to the meetings as whipping up support for Sir Desmond's sidelining.

Sir Peter, some suggest, has aspirations of a bigger role at the company. But one source said: "It is unlikely that that would happen. It would be a case of the one who wields the knife doesn't get to wear the crown."

Sir Desmond is expected to stay out of the action until late October, when Mr Green presents a review of the business to shareholders.

This week, Sir Desmond told The Times that the issue of Mr Staples' departure and unrest about the board would be over by the company's interim results in November.

An emergency board meeting is not planned. The company said the next meeting is scheduled for late August.

Clear view, page 26



Sir Desmond poured cold water on departure talk

Sea change signalled as sterling takes a dive

By Michael Clark and George Snyell

THE financial markets underwent a sea change yesterday as the pound headed down towards DM2.90, reacting to the Bank of England's attempts to talk down sterling.

Leading stocks suffered a sharp fall and shares in medium-sized companies, many of whom are exporters hurt by the high pound, enjoyed a welcome boost.

Foreign exchange dealers took Thursday's hint from the Bank of England that interest rates have peaked at 7 per cent and marked the pound down by 4.51 pence to DM2.9249 by the close. Sterling has now fallen 12 pence in the past week and 17 pence from the recent eight-year high of DM3.0878.

Analysts said that the sterling bubble had burst and meant that dealers were likely to focus on shares of medium-sized companies that were sensitive to export volumes and the pound. In stark contrast to the 55.5 fall by the FTSE 100 index to 5,031.3 yesterday, the FTSE 250 index of medium-sized companies rose 52.3 points, to close at 4,650.5. Trading was brisk with more than one billion shares changing hands. The FTSE 100 index still ended 131 points up on the week.

The banks and drug companies, which helped the London market to rise by almost 25 per cent this year, came in for profit-taking to end the week on a subdued note.

To add to the mix, Wall Street fell sharply. US bonds had fallen heavily by midday trading in New York. Dealers blamed portfolio liquidations, sales by hedge funds, and rumours of a report of strong

retail sales due to come out next week.

In addition, the rising bond yields brought fears of higher inflation and the possibility once again of higher American interest rates.

This dragged the equity market down. In early afternoon trading the Dow Jones industrial average had fallen 118.92 points to 8,069.00 after

ABBEY NATIONAL has followed the Cheltenham & Gloucester in raising interest rates for its two million borrowers. The bank was reacting to Thursday's base rate rise of 0.25 per cent. The Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and other UK lenders are expected to announce increases at the start of next week. Borrowers with mortgages of up to £59,999 will now pay 8.45 per cent, those with loans of between £60,000 and £100,000 will pay 8.4 per cent, while those with loans of over £100,000 will pay 8.35 per cent. A borrower with a £50,000 interest-only mortgage will pay £320 per month; previously they paid £310.

suffering a 211-point fall earlier in the day.

In London, gilts suffered from the fall in the pound. The September gilt future fell almost £1 lower at £114.55, reversing the rise after Thursday's quarter point rise in base rates to 7 per cent. Bond specialists blamed a fall in US Treasury bonds for the London falls rather than any domestic pressure.

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BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	5031.3	(-56.8)
FTSE 250	4650.5	(+52.3)
FTSE All share	2254.3	(-14.2)
Nikkei	19604.46	(+128.6)
Dow Jones	8069.00	(-118.92)
S&P Composite	935.19	(-18.0)

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	8.61%	(101%)
Yield	6.81%	(8.63%)

5-year Interbank	7.75%	(7.75%)
Life long gilt	11.4%	(11.4%)

New York	1.5860	(1.5875)
London	1.5784	(1.5800)
DM	2.9249	(2.9711)
FF	5.8890	(10.0280)
SP	114.55	(114.55)
Yen	182.50	(187.94)
£ Index	101.3	(102.5)

London	1.3455	(1.3890)
DM	6.2820	(6.3050)
SP	1.6070	(1.5305)
Yen	114.55	(114.55)
£ Index	105.9	(106.5)

Tokyo close Yen 118.53

Brent 15-day (Oct) \$18.55 (\$19.10)

London close \$324.85 (\$322.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Dividends

The water regulator accused the industry of failing to fully disclose details of how companies fund their controversially high dividend payments to shareholders. An ultimatum was delivered by Ian Byatt for them to come clean.

Page 26, Tempos 28

Director at M&S cashes in

By Sarah Cunningham

KEITH OATES, deputy chairman of Marks & Spencer, yesterday became the latest director of the retailer to make the most of its recent share price surge.

He exercised options to acquire 100,000 shares at 254p each and then sold them at 601p - just off the highest price of the day - making a profit of £347,000. Marks & Spencer shares have risen nearly £1 in the past six weeks on the back of strong trading and its purchase of 19 Littlewoods stores.

His total shareholding remains unchanged at 305,572 shares, worth £1.83 million at the current share price. The wife of another director, Jim Benfield, sold 45,000 shares at 55.9p each last week.

Mr Oates, who is joint managing director, was the company's highest paid director last year, earning £608,000. He also gained £836,000 on share options.

Woolwich faces writ on shares

By Caroline Merrell

THE Woolwich could face paying thousands of pounds worth of compensation if a legal action proposed by the disgruntled son of a shareholder in the newly converted bank is successful.

Thousands of Woolwich savers and borrowers are still waiting for share certificates, even though the bank made its stock market debut more than a month ago. These shareholders have been unable to sell their holdings, in spite of the 18 per cent drop in the share price since July 7, the first day of trading.

Geoffrey Waldren, from Dorset, whose father is due certificates for 926 shares, believes that the Woolwich should pay compensation. If his father had been able to sell the shares on the first day of trading he would have made between £3,000 and £3,400, now they would fetch about £2,700. The share certificates are now expected to arrive next

week, when the price might be even lower. Woolwich shares fell to 298p yesterday.

Mr Waldren has consulted Max Bittel Greene, a firm of lawyers in London, about the possibilities of pressing for compensation. He is hoping to get together an action group of at least 1,000 shareholders. He said: "The Woolwich could be faced with very large claims for substantial losses, as many tens of thousands of people could be involved."

A Woolwich spokeswoman said that the vast majority of the 2.7 million Woolwich shareholders had received their shares successfully.

She said: "Around 10,000 have experienced difficulties. They have been generated by a huge number of different reasons. We are trying to get the situation sorted out as quickly as we can. If we were at fault, we may offer compensation. Each case will be considered on its merits."

Offshore Internet bank fails

By Robert Miller

AN OFFSHORE bank, operating on the Internet and the subject of a Bank of England alert, has crashed.

The Antigua-based European Union Bank (EUB), which offered high rates of interest on deposits and guaranteed "secrecy", was shut by the authorities after a depositor was unable to withdraw his \$128,000 (£90,706).

Last October the Bank of England told potential depositors to think carefully and check before handing over their money to banks advertising on the Internet.

The Office of National Drugs and Money Laundering Policy in Antigua has issued a fraud alert for at least 10 shareholders in EUB, one Canadian based in Toronto and the other from New York.

The Antigua Government has appointed the eastern Caribbean arm of Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, to investigate and act as receiver.

Brussels to redraw UK 'map'

By Adam Jones

THE map of the UK is to be redrawn at the behest of Brussels next year. But patriots can sleep easy: the changes are being made for accounting purposes and they correct a long-standing anomaly.

For years, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man have been treated as part of the UK in the nation's official accounts, even though their self-governing status gives them legal and administrative independence.

Next year, changes in the way these accounts are presented, prompted by a need to fall into line with our European Union partners, mean the offshore tax havens will no longer be deemed part of the UK. The islands are not part of the EU, said the Office for National Statistics

(ONS) yesterday, and must therefore be excluded from the UK's internal market. A spokesman added: "There was a question mark over whether they should have been there in the first place."

Sales of goods to the islands will from 1998 be seen as exports. Deposits made in a Jersey bank account will be viewed as having left the country.

The ONS said the UK's balance of payments, detailed in the annual "Pink Book", will be affected, but is unsure how at this early stage.

Changes will also be made to the Blue Book, also known as the United Kingdom Annual Accounts. Transactions which were viewed as short or medium-term consumption are to be reclassified as capital investment in 1998.

Buying a milk cow or a fruit tree will be

seen in the same light as building a factory, but buying a chicken is viewed like going shopping for groceries. Van Gogh paintings and the rights to distribute Oasis's chart-topping new album will also be seen as longer-term investments, as will computer software.

Data will be split into more categories than before, including more information on the financial sector.

The move to the new European System of Accounts will make it easier to compare national economies, the ONS said. It said it was too early to say whether UK growth estimates would be larger or smaller under the new system.

A dummy run using the new European accounting standards will be made this autumn, working with 1997 figures to ease the transition.

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: PETER OWEN

Healthcare boss who races away the stress

Martin Waller meets a businessman who has competed on some of the greatest tracks — a far cry from his day job running PPP

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AS THE crowds poured out of Silverstone at the end of the British Grand Prix, one man was hurrying round the track, clad in helmet and racing overalls, throwing his high-powered Ford Mustang into the curves. For the thousands of spectators streaming through the exits — or zooming overhead by helicopter — the race was an afterthought; trailing in the twilight of the day's festivities. It might lack the glamour of Formula One, but for Peter Owen, the man behind the wheel, nothing could have been sweeter. He managed third place.

Owen, 50, embraces his hobby with a passion. He has raced on some of the world's great racetracks — a far cry from his day job running PPP Healthcare, one of the biggest names in the fiercely competitive private healthcare market. Based in and around London, with a home near Hampton Court, he regularly clears his desk on a Friday evening, and jets off to a foreign capital, ready for a weekend's racing at Spa or Monza. After a week of meetings, dinners, and all the other strings that go with running a major company, it is the ultimate stress-reliever.

Healthcare experts predict sweeping changes in the provision of medical care in the UK. The idea of a cradle-to-grave health service, funding the treatment of all ailments suffered by rich or poor, will have to go the same way as the notion of a guaranteed standard of living into old age. Companies such as PPP and Bupa, the market leader, are at a disadvantage, says Owen, because the public does not need to buy the product — yet, if there is a perception, at last, that the state pension will not be enough, this motivates people to approach companies providing an alternative.

But if we all expect to rely on the NHS for life's medical crises, albeit after a long wait and in conditions that are far from luxurious, then what impetus is there to pay for medical care oneself? Put it this way and it makes more sense that the head of Britain's second largest private healthcare business is a man with 30 years' experience in marketing and virtually no medical expertise.

Owen spends much of his week as a passenger in a very different type of vehicle — a chauffeur-driven BMW. He travels two or three days a week at PPP's London office, with another day at the office in Tunbridge Wells, and the rest of his time visiting offices around Britain. At his desk by 7.45am, he spends much of his day in meetings, reads a great deal, and typically gives up three evenings a week to work-related functions.

Work inevitably encroaches into weekends — when he is not racing — although Owen is keen to make time for his family. His wife, Ruth, works in human resources for Reed-Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group. Owen relates this with evident pride, saying: "She's got the really tough job, managing a career, and managing my career as well."

They have three children: Nicolas, 21,

who is reading politics at Manchester; Laura, 19, who is reading English and history at London University; and Matthew, 10, who — predictably — is still enjoying life at home. Work aside, evenings bring ballet and the opera, and there are wonderful holidays — skiing trips to the Rockies, visits to Switzerland at Christmas, and tennis excursions.

Owen joined PPP in 1994 and decided three things needed to be done — and fast. It is now two down and one to go, the last on schedule to be completed by the end of the year. It is significant that first on the list is the £30 million he and the Saatchi brothers spent rebranding the business, which used to trade under the name of Private Patients Plan. Sounds reasonable, given that it was in the business of providing an insurance plan for private patients, surely?

"The name is quite symbolic," he says, slipping effortlessly into that sub-branch of the English language used by market-leading people. "It shows the different emphasis and it reflects what our customers want from us and the value-added services they want. What the brand is saying is that we're not just an insurance company. When you are in need of support, we are there. There will be a whole range of input mechanisms available, a health line, regular check-ups, dentistry, long-term care."

You have a relationship with us not merely by making a claim. It is easy to poke fun at such linguistic contortions and at the notion that someone in dire need of medical attention is concerned at the nature of his or her relationship with the provider of the same. But further

expansion for PPP is going to come down to persuading large numbers of people that they need its services. If so, the wiles of the marketing man, rather than the skills of the GP, who set the business up as a provident institution after the Second World War, will be needed.

"I don't think any business requires somebody to be the line-expert to run it," he says. "You could argue it's better to have somebody with broad-based skills rather than an enthusiast."

His second job at PPP was to expand the range of medical services available direct to his customers by buying half-stakes in four hospitals for £100 million. To achieve this, and to raise the necessary capital on attractive rates, meant scrapping the original provident structure under which nobody actually owned the business. Instead, PPP became a limited company owned by a trust that has the twin aim of supporting the company and a new medical research and training charity.

The third need is a way of getting PPP's products through to potential customers by improving the distribution base. Again a task more suited to a financial services business, or possibly a retailer that will showcase PPP's products. This brings with it dangers. PPP's new structure makes it effectively bid-proof, but the distribution link will require the surrender of some of the equity, although not a majority stake. "We're not for sale," Owen says. "But we need to find a way of



Peter Owen regularly clears his desk on a Friday evening and jets off to a foreign capital, ready for a weekend of racing at Spa or Monza

efficiently getting our products to market.

A straight joint venture might seem the easiest course, his company providing the insurance package and a partner the distribution. But this leaves the risk that the latter, having picked up the skills of underwriting in the insurance market, might one day cast PPP aside. "That's why I'm looking for a more enduring partnership in terms of distribution. We need to look at the actual strength of the relationship we have with that business and devise a structure that allows us to develop strategically if we want to while giving them the confidence to stick with us. What we won't do is to enter into a relationship with somebody that leaves us vulnerable for the future."

A large, imposing figure, sometimes taken to wearing disconcertingly casual dress, he knows he is tipping through a political minefield in putting up an alternative to the NHS. He is also aware that he may not be the most patient or tactful guide through such territory.

He learnt marketing at British Airways, arriving at PPP after a brief spell running Aer Lingus, the Irish airline.

"It would be true to say I'm not a terribly patient person" — this from a man whose way of relaxing is racing sports cars. "The fact is, there isn't a lot of time. You do have to march on," he says. It is not an easy task for someone of this type to walk into an organisation such as PPP, with its own entrenched culture, and shake it up as he has done. Indeed, one of

his first jobs was to engineer the departure, "reasonably painlessly", of 40 per cent of the senior and middle managers. "It's a very difficult tightrope to walk, between getting people to have the satisfaction of performing beyond what they thought was possible and at the same time not allowing change to cause chaos."

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His life, he accepts, is tied up as much as any executive in endless rounds of meetings. "You do need meetings. The important thing is to make them as short as possible. I don't like wandering around on a Grand Tour of

the offices. I prefer to talk to small groups of staff. I can be very frank with them. But nobody in this organisation gets clobbered for saying what they think."

Owen is not complacent about the further changes that will be needed at PPP if the Government does grasp the nettle and introduce some statutory requirement for a personal contribution towards healthcare costs. His best forecast is of a "reverse means test" whereby well-off individuals are gradually required to contribute something.

But there has already been significant change. "In the 1980s, Private Patients Plan (the previous name) followed a very successful strategy, which was to allow Bupa to become the generic in private medical insurance. Given the phenom-

nal growth that occurred in the 1980s, it was a very effective strategy to ride on Bupa's coat-tails."

"Come the recession and a plethora of newcomers to the business, the very low voice of PPP began to be a problem." Bizarrely, a survey of existing customers a few years ago found that one in five had never even heard of the company, having been put in by their employers. Clearly not a state of affairs acceptable to a marketing man. But this went hand-in-hand with a degree of administrative inefficiency, in particular in signing up new customers.

"If you had the stamina to last the course in terms of joining us, you were a pretty good bet," he jokes. "It was worth signing you up on the spot."

Ashes call

A WOEFUL tale reaches me from the fair metropolises of Perth in Western Australia. Don Inglis, an Englishman who has spent the past decade in exile with James Capel, was in line for the ultimate fortieth birthday present — a ticket to the Test match against Australia at the Oval on August 21.

Keen to make an impact, his friends in England arranged for the ticket to be delivered by a strapping man, dressed as a policeman, who was to see Inglis with false conviction papers, handcuff him, and drag him off. Her lines included: "The Barry Army here with conscripts you to return home to see, for the last time this century, England trashing the Convicts on home soil. Book your passage home and bring The Ashes with you."

Sadly, Kevin Johnson, a fellow Capel director, failed to see the humorous side, and scuppered the whole thing — spoilsport. Inglis got his ticket by more conventional means,

and is now trying to swing a flight home. This is Johnson's chance to make amends.

WESTMINSTER Strategy, long-time adviser to Sir Andrew Large at the Securities and Investments Board, is the first victim of the shift to a new over-arching regime. Its contract is not being renewed at the end of the month.

Talk, talk

WHAT we've always suspected: directors of UK companies waste more than two hours of their working day as a result of colleague interruptions and other hassles, according to a survey by The Athenaeum Hotel and Apartments, that reputable establishment in Piccadilly. Respondents deemed meetings unprofitable and time-wasting — but perhaps lost has something to do with it. The question — "Where is the strangest place you have ever held a meeting?" — threw up some oddities, with accountants citing a curling rink and a monastery.

Someone in advertising referred to an encounter in a car park at Polo in Windsor. Answers from lawyers included: an asylum, my bedroom, driving to a poker game, and attending a rodeo in a market town in Chile. Property folk have held meetings in a caravan park in the Isle of Wight, an Afro-Caribbean club in Moss Side, Manchester, and in Stringfellow's. Where else?

Futuristic

WATTS WACKER, billed as one of the world's leading fu-



tourists (those people who predict trends, apparently), has just flown back to America, fresh from promoting his new book, *The 500 Year Delta* (Capstone, £15.99), co-written with Jim Taylor. Wacker specialises in writing 500-year business plans for corporations such as Coca-Cola and Walt Disney. Alarmingly, his UK clients are said to include BP and British Telecom, neither of which has exactly had a brilliant press of late. "The good thing about a 500-year business plan is that you don't have to turn it out right away," he enthuses. Tell that to Sir Peter Bonfield.

Musical bet

HAT'S off to Tony Pitt, who has just clocked up 40 years as an underwriter at Lloyd's of London, where his speciality is not satellites, or Naomi Campbell's legs, but musical instruments. Pitt, who works for Archer Group's non-marine syndicate 544, has insured instruments used by the Rolling Stones, Emerson Lake & Palmer, and even the Who — with no exclusion on deliberate smashing. One of his most unusual requests came from an Italian count,

eager to insure his daughter's honour during a visit to England.

Probably his most famous "risk", however, was the giant inflatable pig used by Pink Floyd on the cover of its album *Animals*. As older rockers will recall, the beast broke free from its mooring at Battersea Power Station and soared into the heavens. "It caused quite an incident at Heathrow," recalls Pitt, who has been toasting his milestone in champagne. "A pilot radioed in to say he had just passed a pink pig at 10,000 feet. They thought he was drunk." The pig landed in a pig farm in Kent. Pitt had to stump up £220 to repair a puncture. Cheap at the price.

SECURICOR's attempt to be more open with the City appears to have left brokers unimpressed. The company has sent out invites to visit its new prison at Bridgend, Glamorgan, on August 19. Not surprisingly, the brokers do not seem to be in any rush to take up the offer.

JON ASHWORTH



An inflatable pig, insured by Tony Pitt, broke free from Battersea Power Station

THE TIMES CHALLENGE OF THE MIND

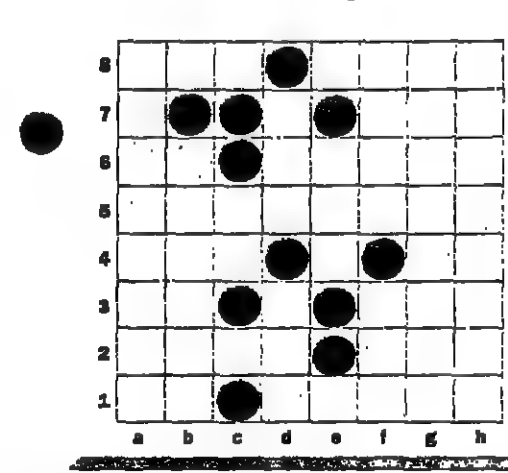
To coincide with the first Mind Sports Olympiad, *The Times* invites you to test your wits with our Challenge of the Mind competition. Every day for two weeks we will be setting a range of puzzles to get you

thinking. And we have £10,000 worth of prizes to be won. For further details of the Mind Sports Olympiad, at the Royal Festival Hall, London, from August 18 to 24, and how to enter, call 0171-703 2828.

£500 LINES OF ACTION PROBLEM by Paul Lamford

Today's puzzle is based on the two-player game, *Lines of Action*, which is popular in the US where it is often played by correspondence. It is played on an 8x8 board (a draughts board will do). The players are Black and White and each has 12 counters of the appropriate colour. A turn consists of moving a man of one's own colour. All pieces move in a straight line in any direction (like a queen in chess) EXACTLY the number of squares there are pieces of both colours in that line. A piece can move over friendly pieces but not over enemy pieces, although it can land on an enemy piece, thereby capturing it, in which case it is removed from the game. The object is to get all your pieces linked, orthogonally or diagonally, in a single group.

Try your hand at the following problem in which both sides are very close to getting a linked group. Black is to play. One piece has been captured on each side. Black has a move that guarantees winning next turn. What should Black play?



Is it?
a) d8-d5, capturing the white checker
b) e7-c5, capturing the white checker
c) c1-b2, connecting the stray checker to the bottom black group

Call 0891 102 724 (ex UK 44 990 200 618) before midnight tomorrow with your answer, a, b or c. The winner will get £500 and three runners-up will receive a £50 voucher,

donated by Hamleys, for use in its Regent Street or Covent Garden, London, stores. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received and the answer will be published on Wednesday. Normal competition rules apply.

£10,000 worth of prizes to be won with Challenge of the Mind

TEN MINUTE MENSA PROBLEM

Q1. What number is missing from the drawing?

START → 12 15

FRISH → 10 24

Q2. How far has the minute hand on a clock travelled if the hand is 7 centimetres long and 15 minutes 6 seconds has elapsed?

Q3. Whose name is contained in WE ALL MAKE HIS PRAISE (7 & 12)?

There's £100 to be won today with this ten-minute Mensa teaser. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tomorrow. Call 0891 102 725 (ex UK 44 990 200 619). 0891 calls cost 50p per minute.

All readers who get two or three of today's Mensa puzzles correct will receive a certificate and a Mensa information pack which includes a home IQ assessment test.

*Paul Lamford is a former editor of *Games and Puzzles* magazine and is currently commissioning editor of chess and bridge for Batsford Books.



DAY 4 (THURSDAY) SOLUTIONS.

GO: answer c was correct. Black should play at A. He will then be able to capture the white stones later in the game by surrounding them completely and removing them. At some stage Black will completely surround the five white stones and then play a further black stone on the intersection immediately to the right of the stone he played at A. White can capture these five stones by playing in the bottom left-hand corner, but Black persists by playing another stone at A, and if this is captured, when Black plays again at A he captures all five white stones. Mrs M. Parsons, of Bude, Cornwall, wins £500.

MENSA PROBLEM: 1450 = a clock with no decimal point plus 50 minutes each time. 2 Schoolmaster (anagram). 3 Answer is 1/4 (one quarter). Philip Carter, of London W2, wins £100.

Don't miss the 16-page Mind Sports Olympiad supplement free with Monday's paper

ON MONDAY: PLAY GIN RUMMY FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN MORE PRIZES

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Sterling decline prompts buyers to switch sights

THERE appears to have been a notable and much needed sea change in investment strategy among City investors this week.

No longer is the whole market dancing to the tune of the banks and drug companies. Instead, it is the manufacturers and exporters — especially among the second liners — that are now leading the way.

Reassuring words from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, on Thursday that interest rates had risen far enough, for the time being, seemed to do the trick. Sterling went into immediate decline and the mark and other European currencies, allowing manufacturers a collective whoop of delight.

It also prompted fund managers to cast their net further afield, trying their hand at a spot of "baiter fishing" in search of better value.

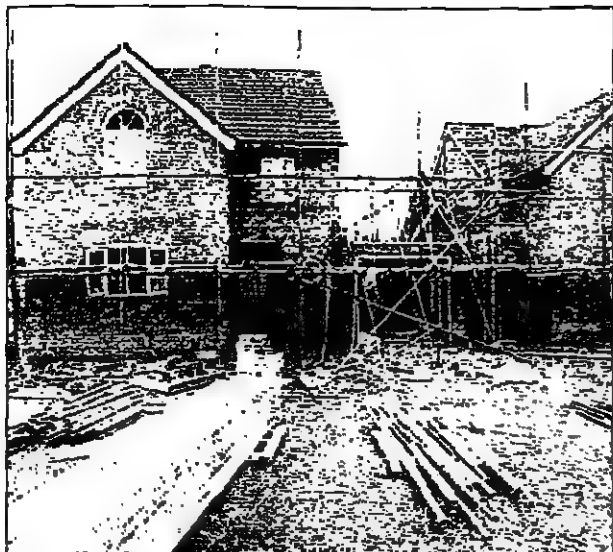
Yesterday's bout of profit-taking in London, which coincided with a 71-point fall in the Dow Jones Industrial average and a further loss of 100 points last night, seemed inevitable. The FTSE 100 index closed above its worst of the session with a fall of 55.5 to 5,031.3. But the gain on the week is 132 points.

By sharp contrast the FTSE 250 was 50.9 higher at 4,649.3, adding weight to the theory that the bull market has started to spill over into the second liners.

The market has surged 24 per cent since the start of the year, fuelled by the performance of both the banks and the drugs companies. But it is likely to emerge in the months ahead that the performance of most fund managers has been pedestrian.

Inevitably, the rush for second liners, especially those with exposure to a strong pound, and the scattergun approach adopted by investors caught market-makers short of stock on the hop. Leading the way was Low & Bonar, 25p up, or 11.5 per cent, at 241p, followed by Yule Cato, 28p, or 3.8p, to 338p, Scapa, 21p to 216p, Allied Colloids, 91p to 132p, Delta, 14p to 342p, BTG, 20p to 681p, Williams Holdings, 15p to 348p, Courtaulds, 14p to 342p, and Laporte, 31p to 730p.

The weaker pound also brought some relief to blue chips, with LucasVarity rising 21p to 217p, Smiths Indus-



Builders CRH and Berkeley rose on broker support

tries 37p to 870p, Tomkins 12p to 334p, TI Group 22p to 615p, GKN 39p to 512.20p, RMC Group 32p to 511.05p, British Aerospace 45p to 514.80p, and Siebe 28p to 511.54p.

British Telecom also stood out with a rise of 10p to 420p in heavy turnover that saw 81 million shares change hands. The shares are due to

BAT Industries fell 5p to 508p, NatWest 5p to 508p, the broker, remains cautious after the recent decline in the dividend. The Florida Medicaid case is giving cause for concern as does the future of its Chinese tobacco venture. NatWest says the shares could fall by a further 10 per cent short-term.

go on the ordinary and special dividend of 40p on Monday. Rank Group clawed back some of this week's losses with a rise of 7p to 347p as it splashed out almost £143 million buying back its own shares. BZW and NatWest picked up 41.4 million shares, almost 5 per cent of the equity, at 345p. The company has committed itself to spending £300 million buying back up to 84 million shares. Rank fell sharply on Thursday after

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current	Week's change	Figure/share buy-back
Barclays Bank	+12.7p	+12.7p
Courtesy Casualty	+11.0p	+11.0p
Rank Group	+7.0p	+7.0p
British Petroleum	+6.9p	+6.9p
Unilever	+6.8p	+6.8p
Cheriton Int	+6.7p	+6.7p
ABN Ltd	+6.6p	+6.6p
Bovis Lend Lease	+6.5p	+6.5p
BOC Group	+6.4p	+6.4p

do despite fears about inflationary pressures.

He remains selective. CRH, up 37p at 669p, is heavily sought after and "buy" recommendations also feature with Berkeley Group, 14p dearer at 712p, and Crest Nicholson, all square at 103p. Those still on the "sell" list include Bryant Group, down 21p at 139p, and Persimmon, up 11p at 243p. Blue Circle Industries also sported a gain of 20p to 447p after he moved from "hold" to "buy".

The banks rounded off a notable week on a flat note as the profit-takers moved in. Barclays, which had seen its price soar by more than £1 on Thursday on the back of better than expected figures and the bank's back ended 20p lower at £14.21. There were also losses for Abbey National, 11p at 840p, HSBC, 40p at £22.86, Halifax, 13p at 733p, Lloyds TSB, 24p at 753p, Royal Bank of Scotland, 20p at 639p, Standard Chartered, 20p at £10.61, and Woolwich, 6p at 208p. Alliance & Leicester, unveiling maiden figures on Friday, lost 8p at 609p.

The drug companies also came under selling pressure, reflecting a similar sell-off overnight among their counterparts in the US, where ratings have been reaching dizzy heights. Glaxo Wellcome dropped 38p to £12.87, SmithKline Beecham 30p to £11.67, and Zeneca 62p to £19.90.

Wassall advanced 21p to 313p on talk that it is to sell its 25 per cent stake in the General Cable Corporation. GILTED-EDGED: A sharp sell-off overnight that left US Treasury bonds nursing falls of \$4 took its toll on the pound bond market. The pound's losses against both the dollar and the mark also undermined sentiment.

In futures, the September series of the long gilt fell 7p to £114.52 as the total number of contracts completed reached 105,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2021 dropped £1.52 to £111.52, while Treasury 6 per cent 1999 was £1.51 at £108.14.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares buckled at midday, suffering steep losses as rapidly rising long-term bond yields created market tremors about the possibility of higher interest rates. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 127.52 at 8,060.48.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 8060.48 (-127.52)
S&P Composite 435.18 (-6.01)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 19804.46 (+126.61)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 16677.54 (-25.73)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 996.10 (+14.81)

Sydney:
AD 2711.40 (+10.30)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4354.15 (+10.29)

Singapore:
Straits 1943.92 (+0.32)

Brussels:
General 13834.51 (-250.79)

Paris:
CAC 2998.27 (+40.07)

Zurich:
SIX 1220.70 (+7.38)

London:
FT 30 5013.3 (+50.1)

FTSE 100 5031.3 (+55.5)

FTSE 250 4649.3 (+50.9)

FTSE 350 2415.8 (+16.5)

FTSE Eurotrack 100 2773.3 (+20.97)

FTSE All-Share 2354.3 (+14.28)

FTSE Non-Financials 2352.50 (+14.68)

FTSE Fixed Interest 125.30 (+0.71)

FTSE Govt Securities 40.57 (+0.66)

Bangladeshi 6057

SEAD Volume 1083.00

US\$ 1.597 (+0.0072)

German Mark 2.299 (+0.0058)

Exchange Index 101.3 (+1.5)

Bank of England official rate 9.00%

ECU 1.481

ESR 1.194

197.5 Jan (2.9%) Jan 1997-100

197.7 Jan (2.7%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Billion 224p + 6p

Blakes Clothing 72p - 1p

Bristol & West Plc 107p - 1p

Cannell Ltd 119p + 1p

Delema 207p - 1p

EMI 115p - 1p

Fairplay Consulting 3p - 1p

GR Holdings 65p - 1p

Galen Holdings 194p + 1p

Grenfell Group 131p - 1p

Helicon Publy 102p - 1p

Jonica Group 38p - 1p

Kingfisher Leisure 175p - 1p

Metroline 212p - 1p

Rebourne Merlon 108p - 1p

SBS Group 106p - 1p

Ted Baker 138p - 1p

Thorn 20p - 1p

Viglen Technology 61p + 1p

RIGHTS ISSUES

Active 1mg n/p (10) 1

Fortune Oil n/p (1) 2

Logica n/p (10) 302

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:

Cornex 202p (+24p)

Low & Bonar 241p (+25p)

Yule Cato 338p (+30p)

Renishaw 280p (+20p)

Wassall 313p (+21p)

Wilson (C) 105.7p (+11p)

Blue Circle 447p (+20p)

Laporte 730p (+31p)

FALLS:

Shell 443p (-15p)

Tesco 416p (-14p)

Ryl Bt Soil 629p (-20p)

Carn Energy 497p (-15p)

Broken Hill 787p (-22p)

Reid 767p (-17p)

Whitbread 830p (-20p)

Lat & Gen 447p (-9p)

SAA 565p (-10p)

Hallam 733p (-13p)

Gen Accident 930p (-18p)

Bass 638p (-13p)

Abbey Nat 846p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 37

TEMPUS

Coming clean on payouts

PRIVATISED water groups should publish up from the dividends which the parent companies receive from their regulated utility subsidiaries. The water regulator, should have no qualms about changing licences to make them do so if all else fails. General disclosure would force boards to treat the relationship between the utility and the group with more discipline.

This should eventually dispel some of the suspicions fuelled by secrecy over what is really going on, especially among the multi-utilities. Manoeuvres to transfer reserves to plc group level to replenish those exhausted by acquisitions have fuelled fears that some are raiding the utility's kitty.

After the 1994 dispensation, water utilities were to be able to raise dividends by inflation plus 2 per cent a year. Any more has to come from beating efficiency targets or diversification.

Some institutions yesterday were snapping up shares in the most obvious beneficiaries — the second tier of British companies that make up the FTSE 250. The mid-cap index had a rare good day this year, rising 52.3 points to 4650.5, while the FTSE 100 was falling. The small company effect also explains the 21p jump in 3i's share price to 482p. Many of the small businesses the investment group backs are probably more dependent on the domestic economy, but it has still been unable to escape the backwash of underperformance.

The improvement in senti-

ment may prove transitory. While the Bank of England has suggested interest rates have already risen far enough, the current level of sterling still causes problems. Moreover, the upcoming results season will inevitably produce plenty of reminders of the harm already done. However, the extraordinary divergence be-

Even so, 1996-97 dividend rises ranging from 15 per cent (Severn Trent) to 22 per cent (Thames) have peaked the regulator. Prospective rises averaging 13 per cent this year will not be in his script either.

As usual, fund managers want to make hay while the sun shines. All may be different after 1999. But excess is no better for investors than punitive regulation is for customers. After the windfall tax, water shares yield an average 5.7 per cent, which would be amazingly cheap if anyone thought such dividend growth was sustainable. No one does.

3i

THE pound buys 13 less pence than it did three days ago, finally offering some relief to exporters and those that rely on them for business.

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Capital Corp

THE shareholders of Capital Corporation met last night to elect a new board. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, Many of them are also shareholders in London Clubs and had been praying for the larger casino group's superior management to get to grips with the ailing Capital.

Only the hope of a bid from Ladbroke has stopped Capital shares falling further than yesterday's 165p. And the stories filtering out of the group from disaffected former employees raise a series of questions about how Capital is run.

Capital has a long list of critical reports produced by outside consultants last year, covering its gaming activities, its purchasing of wine, and its financial controls.

Among the issues that came to the fore were the theft of computers containing confidential information, massive over-ordering of food and whether the pension

fund was properly audited. Alan Hearn, the group's chief executive, has said controls have been tightened. But when one learns that the company makes administrative errors over the disclosure of the share dealings of its gaming director (who, by the way, was in charge during the period covered by the critical reports) one wonders just how much improvement Capital has made.

Ladbroke must think long and hard before deciding whether to bid. If it does, Mr Hearn would benefit his shareholders by running up the white flag to avoid further falls in Capital shares.

Memory Corp

MEMORY Corporation, the Scottish electronics company, has been pretty much ignored since the massive fall in its share price. The shares plunged from 54p in 1995 to about the 30p mark for its computer chip repair technology

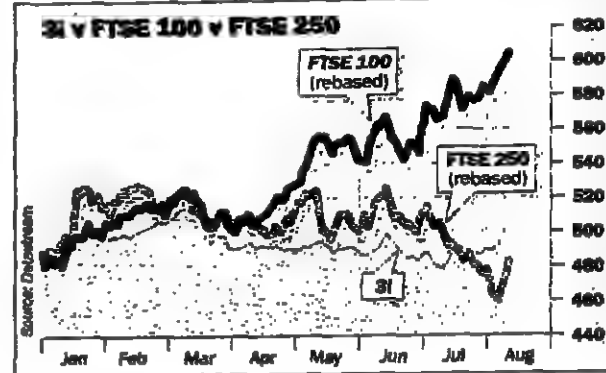
proved just that. Smaller losses in the first half of 1997 were accompanied by visits to a couple of brokers yesterday to try to repair some bridges with the City.

Memory says it is on the brink of delivering on an order conditionally signed with an anonymous US company last year. And it says a tie-up with a big US chip-maker yesterday leaves it well placed to cash in on the digital camera market.

It also has technology for stopping chip theft from computers with an electronic poison pill that could be ready by the end of 1997.

But claims that Memory is now pretty much safe from another collapse in global chip prices — the source of its previous problems — remain untested since prices have remained relatively stable since new management came in. In the meantime, the company is heading for more losses this year. Still one to avoid.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN



COMMODITIES

LIFE				CRUDE OIL (London A&B)pt				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
FUTURES				CLIQUE OILS \$/barrel (spot)				LIFE WHEAT			
LIFE				LIFE FLOUR				LIFE FLOUR			
Sep	102-103	102	1131-1131	Brnt 15 day Sep	18.50	0.45	Sep	50.50	Sep	70.75	
Oct	104-105	104	1140-1140	Brnt 15 day Sep	18.70	0.45	Oct	51.00	Oct	71.25	
Nov	106-107	106	1150-1150	Brnt 15 day Sep	18.90	0.45	Nov	51.50	Nov	71.75	
Dec	108-109	108	1160-1160	W. Texas Int'l (104)	20.15	-0.40	Dec	52.00	Dec	72.25	
Jan	110-111	110	1170-1170	W. Texas Int'l (104)	20.15	-0.40	Jan	52.50	Jan	72.75	
Feb	112-113	112	1180-1180				Feb	53.00	Feb	73.25	
Mar	114-115	114	1190-1190				Mar	53.50	Mar	73.75	
Apr	116-117	116	1200-1200				Apr	54.00	Apr	74.25	
May	118-119	118	1210-1210				May	54.50	May	74.75	
Jun	120-121	120	1220-1220				Jun	55.00	Jun	75.25	
Sep	122-123	122	1230-1230				Volume	147	Volume	207	
MIDWEST COFFEE \$/lb				PRODUCTS \$/WT				LIFE POTATO			
Sep	1.60-1.60	Npot CIF W. Europe (prompt delivery)			Sep	14.00	Open	14.00	
Oct	1.65-1.65				Nov	
Nov	1.70-1.70				Dec	
Dec	1.75-1.75				Jan	
Jan	1.80-1.80				Feb	
Feb	1.85-1.85				Mar	
Mar	1.90-1.90				Apr	
Apr	1.95-1.95				May	
May	2.00-2.00				Volume	31	Volume	31	
Jun	2.05-2.05								
WHITE SUGAR (POB)				TIME FUTURES (GNI) Lb				RUBBER (No 1 RSS CV SMO)			
Sep	22.10-22.10	Aug	129.25-90	174.25-90	Aug	
Oct	22.10-22.10	Sep	129.25-90	174.25-90	Sep	
Nov	22.10-22.10	Oct	129.25-90	174.25-90	Oct	
Dec	22.10-22.10	Nov	129.25-90	174.25-90	Nov	
Jan	22.10-22.10	Dec	129.25-90	174.25-90	Dec	
Feb	22.10-22.10	Jan	129.25-90	174.25-90	Jan	
Mar	22.10-22.10	Feb	129.25-90	174.25-90	Feb	
Apr	22.10-22.10	Mar	129.25-90	174.25-90	Mar	
May	22.10-22.10	Apr	129.25-90	174.25-90	Apr	
Jun	22.10-22.10	May	129.25-90	174.25-90	May	
Sep	22.10-22.10	Jun	129.25-90	174.25-90	Jun	
WHEAT & LUXEOST COMMISSION				BARS (Lb) (spot)				LIFE BEAN (GNI \$/bu)			
Average lastest price of representative market on day of settlement				Sep	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Sep	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Oct	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Oct	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Nov	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Nov	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Dec	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Dec	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Jan	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Jan	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Feb	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Feb	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Mar	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Mar	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Apr	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Apr	11.95	11.95	11.95
				May	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	May	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Jun	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Jun	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Jul	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Jul	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Aug	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Aug	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Sep	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Sep	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Oct	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Oct	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Nov	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Nov	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Dec	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Dec	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Jan	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Jan	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Feb	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Feb	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Mar	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Mar	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Apr	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Apr	11.95	11.95	11.95
				May	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	May	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Jun	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Jun	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Jul	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Jul	11.95	11.95	11.95
				Aug	11.95-11.95	10.12	11.95	Aug	11.95	11.95	11.95
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GOING OFFSHORE 32



A sophisticated saver's plans for university

WEEKEND MONEY

SWITCH IN TIME 33

Students are now seeking the best financial deals



THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Caroline Merrell on the future for traditional banks in face of increasing competitive pressure

High street banks come under threat



Banks are still the focus of a great amount of consumer dissatisfaction. The announcement this week of record profits by the UK's biggest clearing banks is bound to fuel customer resentment even further.

The billions of pounds made by the banks is unlikely to be used to help provide higher savings, lower mortgage rates and better customer service. Banks still pay miserly amounts of interest on their savings accounts, charge a great deal for overdrafts and remain closed at inconvenient times.

Authorised overdrafts carry interest rates of about 15 per cent, while unauthorised overdrafts will rack up interest at between 22 and 30 per cent. Even these rates may be on the increase. After this week's increase in interest rates, all the banks are reviewing their overdraft rates. A survey carried out last year by Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine, found the costs of running a current account £100 into the red on a monthly basis varied widely between the banks.

A customer running a £100 overdraft with NatWest over a five-year period would be charged £513, while a £100 overdraft with the Woolwich over the same five-year period would cost only about £33. The best-buy current accounts recommended by the magazine would not charge anything for running an account into the red over a five-year period.

According to a survey from Moneyfacts, the monthly consumer magazine, a large number of people are still dissatisfied with service given by their banks. The worst level of service, said respondents, is

given by the Abbey National, Barclays, NatWest and the TSB, while the best level of service is given by Lloyds, Bank of Scotland and Co-op. FCB, a London advertising agency, asked the opinions of 3,000 people and found that banks were perceived as being particularly unhelpful.

The survey found that the customers believed that banks were keen to offer products that they wanted to sell rather than ones which suit a particular person's needs. The agency also found that consumers were far more positive about the new breed of banks offered by the supermarkets such as Tesco and Sainsbury's.

6.15 per cent interest rate. This is more than double many of the rates available from traditional banks in the high street. Virgin is still unclear about what its plans are for banking. It has managed to secure £400 million of extra backing from Australian Mutual Provident (AMP), and hopes to launch before the end of the year.

Rowan Gormley, managing director of Virgin Direct, said that the company had not decided whether to offer the bank through a third party, or whether it intended to offer a full range of banking services.

Prudential, which launched its bank ten months ago, now has about £274 million of

monthly savings magazine, the biggest high street names do not offer the best instant-access accounts. It recommends interest-paying cheque accounts from Abbey National, Bank of Scotland, Halifax, Northern Rock and Woolwich.

Abbey National, for instance, offers 24-hour banking and interest if the account is in credit. Authorised overdrafts cost 0.94 per cent a month, which works out at 11.9 per cent a year – one of the cheapest rates on the high street. Unauthorised overdrafts, however, are extraordinarily expensive, carrying rates of 29.5 per cent annually. Interest rates on Abbey National accounts in credit are between 1.34 per cent for balances of £500 and 3.45 per cent on balances of £100,000.

The cost of an overdraft with the Bank of Scotland is negotiable. Two of its accounts offer interest-free overdrafts of up to £100 or £250. This bank has an interest rate of between 4.25 per cent and 5.25 per cent on balances of between £2,500 and £100,000.

Moneyfacts also recommends an account from the Northern Rock, which offers an interest rate of 3.4 per cent on its interest-paying cheque account.

These best buys contrast with the accounts offered by the biggest clearers such as Lloyds. The authorised overdraft rate on an account with Lloyds is about 18.8 per cent. Its classic current account offers interest of between only 0.2 and 0.5 per cent.

Barclays charges 18.8 per cent interest on authorised overdrafts; unauthorised overdrafts attract 29.8 per cent interest.

Woolwich and Peps, page 35

A constant £100 overdraft for five years at NatWest would cost £513. At Woolwich it would be just £33

Competition among the banks, however, is beginning to heat up, with insurance companies, supermarkets and now Virgin attempting to break into the banking sector.

Sainsbury's Bank offers an instant-access account with a high interest rate of 6.15 per cent regardless of the balance. In six months, the bank has taken on 350,000 customers and £600 million of customers' money. Much of it has come from the recently demutualised building societies and the banks. Customers have been attracted by the high rates of interest offered by the supermarket bank.

All deposits will attract the

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

This week two of the UK's biggest life insurance companies announced that they planned to offer victims of pensions mis-selling guarantees that they would suffer no financial loss on retirement.

They would offer these guarantees at the same time as trying to get policyholders reinstated into their occupational scheme. Guarantees will speed up the compensation process, and help appease Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury who is becoming increasingly impatient with companies for dragging their feet over dealing with the problem.

One insurance company, the Prudential, also went a step further by saying that victims of mis-selling would not have to prove they had been mis-sold a pension. Sir Peter Davis, Prudential chief executive, said that the insurance company had introduced

Lawyer cautious over pensions mis-selling pledge

the scheme because it wanted to hasten the review. He said: "We just want to get the whole thing sorted out." The move will cost the company a substantial sum of money, as a result it has had to nearly double its provisions against compensation to £450 million. Legal & General, which was the first company to come up with a guarantee scheme, has yet to reveal how much it will cost.

Another 11 companies including Pearl have applied to the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) to get authorisation for similar schemes. However, Robert

Wharton, a partner with Ringrose Wharton, a solicitor acting on behalf of around 600 people who have been mis-sold a personal pension, said that the guarantee schemes could be flawed.

Mr Wharton said: "This should not be seen as a panacea. It could be potentially dangerous." He said that he felt it was far better that pension mis-selling victims should be reinstated as soon as possible rather than relying on a promise that would be fulfilled at retirement.

He said that anyone who was offered the choice of a guaranteed scheme rather

than reinstatement should ensure that they understood what the guarantee meant and what it covered them for. He said: "It gives the insurance companies complete control over pensions."

He also believes that the PIA should ensure that there is some degree of similarity between the guaranteed schemes offered by the different insurance companies.

The PIA claimed that the schemes should not be seen as a method for the companies to escape their responsibilities.

It said that it was looking at each of the schemes on their own merits. A spokeswoman said: "It should not be seen as a soft option."

The Prudential countered criticisms of the scheme by emphasising that the guarantee was a legally binding commitment. It also pointed out that attempts for reinstatement would continue.

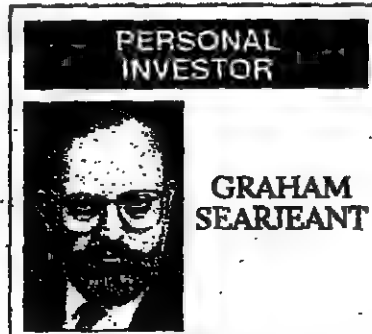
CAROLINE MERRELL

Playing footsie is dangerous

London's stock market boom is not quite as it seems. The FTSE 100 index of blue chips touched new peaks this week, nearly a quarter higher than it started the year. But many investors checking their portfolios or unit trusts will wonder if this can really be true. Index-tracking funds should have kept up more or less. Most investors, paying experts to choose stock for them, or trusting their own judgment, have probably not.

There is a good reason for this. The index is a size-weighted average but its rise, like that of the economy, has been skewed. Robin Griffiths, trend analyst at HSBC James Capel argues provocatively: "The UK is already in a bear phase, unless your entire portfolio is made up of bank and pharmaceutical shares". Sounds good news for new investors nursing windfall shares in Halifax et al. On Thursday, when the Bank of England's message on interest rates pushed the index up 1.2 per cent, the 11 bank shares now included in the Footsie accounted for half the gain.

Most banks are doing nicely as half-year figures show. And the better the Bank of England's new monetary policy committee manages to maintain stable growth, the less the fear of banks being hit by their usual debt crisis. So far this year, the index of financial shares has risen by 39 per cent. But there is some froth in this. Prices now assume more mergers. Consolidation will doubtless continue, but the takeover of any player bigger than the Woolwich would now surely face severe scrutiny from the competition author-



PERSONAL INVESTOR GRAHAM SEARJEANT

ties. Mr Griffiths's applied his strictures to London's performance relative to other markets since the spring. But many UK share sectors have been stagnating in absolute terms.

General industrials, many hit by the strength of sterling, have only just recovered to January levels after sagging badly from March to mid-July. The services sector includes trendy business areas such as leisure, media and the pub/restaurant trade that should benefit from buoyant discretionary spending, as well as the vast and solid retail groups. Yet on average, the 273 stocks measured in the relevant FTSE Actuaries index have risen by only 4 per cent.

Companies outside the premier league have been badly neglected. Even constituents of the FTSE 250, which includes the biggest, other than the top 100, have only managed to edge up about 2 per cent. Investors in small quoted companies have, on average,

actually seen their shares fall this year. This imbalance reflects the economy, but it is mainly due to the pattern of buying. Domestic investors, whether pension funds or individuals, have not been queuing to buy. The biggest companies, most of which are financials, drug companies or utilities, have been driven ahead by investment from global funds wanting to put more money into London. Of late, continental funds have been most active.

Yesterday showed how dangerous a game playing the Footsie has become in consequence. The rising pound made it attractive to buy London. A suddenly sagging pound, talked down by the Bank's hint that there would be no more rate rises before November, soon had some foreign funds scrambling to take their profits. This is a healthy development. Dangerous tensions are building up in the international currency and financial markets that may well end in tears. Pricking the London bubble early should help later on.

This week's developments are actually most encouraging for domestic investors. They have brought a lower pound and growing confidence that short-term interest rates will not rise above 7.5 per cent. That should underwrite modest economic growth and give much-needed aid to company earnings, which were expected to rise by under 8 per cent this year and less than 7 per cent in 1998. If you are brave enough to invest, though, back the neglected stocks rather than the fickle Footsie.

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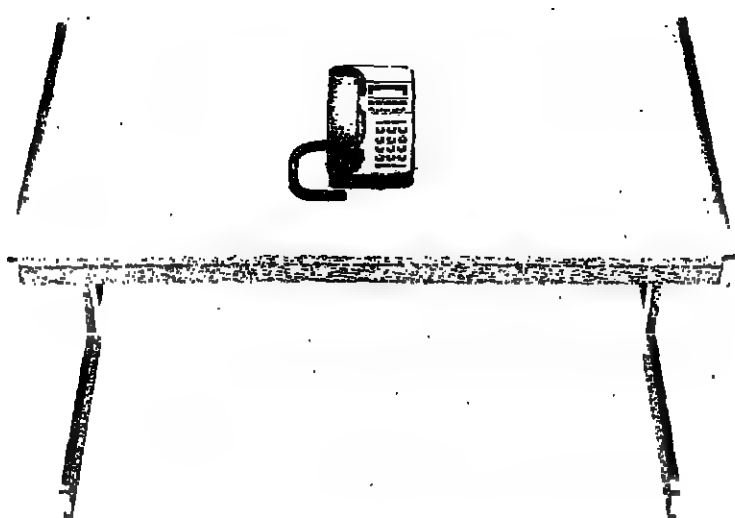
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Sara McConnell on why partners must be open in loan dealings

The society that came back out of the blue

Husbands, wives and partners who fail to question or discuss family and business finance arrangements could leave themselves open to unpleasant demands from creditors if their spouse dies in debt.

Sara Robinson of the Family Law Consortium says women, who often shy away from discussing money with their partners, are most at risk. Women who agree to allow the family home to be remortgaged to finance a husband's or partner's business should insist on their right to independent legal advice and should question the lender closely about the risks if the mortgage is not paid.

Nearly four years ago, the House of Lords ruled that lenders had a duty to explain the risks of remortgaging to fund a business and had to demonstrate they had taken "reasonable steps" to do so.

But the ruling has not helped Kathleen Brown. Her husband died in debt in April 1991 after his wine business collapsed. In a bid to keep the business afloat, Mr Brown persuaded his wife to remortgage their home, more than doubling the original £30,000 loan to £64,000 in August 1989. The loan was in the name of Mrs Brown, for family reasons, with Mr Brown guaranteeing it.

Mr Brown was supposed to



Still paying: Kathleen Brown faced a bill for £18,000

pay the mortgage every month. But unknown to Mrs Brown, he did not. Only when he died did Mrs Brown discover that she was in serious debt. The Bradford & Bingley, her lender, repossessed her home in August 1991 which they sold for enough

to cover the original £34,000 loan. Mrs Brown thought her debt was paid.

But this year, five years later, the Bradford & Bingley wrote demanding £18,000, which it said was the total of nearly three years' arrears, plus interest and

legal costs. As Weekend Money has revealed, growing numbers of lenders are resurfacing after years of silence to demand money as the economy picks up, in the hope that former borrowers may be able to pay.

Mrs Brown is still negotiating to pay off the debt in small instalments from her nurse's salary. But she maintains she never received any of Bradford & Bingley's letters telling her she was in arrears before her husband died. Bradford & Bingley says it sent her a series of letters asking that she clear the arrears. The letters were sent to Mrs Brown as the person legally liable for the loan.

She and the Bradford & Bingley now conclude that her husband was intercepting the letters to hide the true state of his financial difficulties from her. The lender says that although the letters were addressed to Mrs Brown, it was always Mr Brown who made contact promising to clear the arrears by the time he died in 1991.

Mrs Brown said: "He was obviously desperate and didn't talk to me about what he had arranged."

Bradford & Bingley says the mortgage agreement made it clear that Mrs Brown was liable and the risks had been explained to her. "We did everything by the book".

Loans by phone for buyers in a rush

It is now possible to arrange almost your entire mortgage by telephone, but is it any cheaper? Though mortgages sold by telephone still account for a small proportion of home loans, it is an area that is growing fast. Northern Rock, one of the new entrants to the direct market, launched its service in May. In the first two months it attracted more than £50 million of applications.

Its first direct product is the Promise Mortgage. Its rate (currently 6.49 per cent) is reset at the beginning of each month to ensure it is below the average variable rate of five other big direct lenders. However for borrowers seeking a quick and easy option, the direct route is not necessarily cheaper.

Some banks and building societies such as the Nationwide and Cheltenham & Gloucester, offer the same products in branches as by telephone. Others may offer a range with a lower rate and with different conditions attached such as a larger deposit. Bradford & Bingley Mort-

gages Direct, for example, has a standard variable rate of 6.99 per cent, with a maximum loan to value of 75 per cent. This compares with a variable rate of 7.7 per cent, and a loan to value ratio of 95 per cent at B&B branches.

While branch interest rates may appear higher, it is worth remembering that there may be special offers available such as discounts for first-time buyers. Going direct does cut out having to trail up and down the high street. Initial details can be given by advisers on the telephone. If you decide to follow them up, and can supply information such as income, life insurance and so on, a mortgage adviser can outline an offer in principle at the end of the call.

The direct approach is recommended for experienced housebuyers rather than first-timers who are unfamiliar with what is required and who often prefer to talk to advisers face to face. "The direct approach is mainly for people who know the ropes such as second and third-time

buyers. It is for people who have not got the time or do not want to go into a building society," said James Evans, of Bradford & Bingley Building Society.

Finalising the mortgage package may take several weeks. You need to allow for the time it takes for papers to be sent by post and for all the details to be supplied. Together with the banks and building societies, there are also the lenders such as Direct Line and Sainsbury's Bank, which offer only direct services.

Sainsbury's Bank offers an options mortgage that lets customers vary payments over ten months rather than 12, for example, or to take a payments break. Current variable rates start at 7.45 per cent. Direct Line offers interest-only and repayment mortgages at a 7.32 per cent standard variable rate, up to 90 per cent of property value. It charges no fee, nor insists you buy insurance.

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Free banking? Well, for the moment

Name one good thing about your bank, urges the advertisement. In spite of the results of the Moneywise survey (see page 29), I can think of lots.

So long as I stay in credit I get free banking. I can arrange overdrafts and loans by telephone. I get a cheque book and monthly statements and there are cash machines on the corner of every high street.

In comparison with other countries, we still have a good banking service. The queues at banks in the United States may be shorter, but you pay handsomely for the privilege. Judging by the limited demand for bank accounts with overdrafts in this country, paying for a current account is still not a popular option among the British.

Banks could improve their image by offering more competitive interest rates on savings, and reducing the penalties on those who become over-



COMMENT

MARIANNE CURPHEY
Personal Finance
Deputy Editor

drawn. This week banks revealed more handsome gains in their UK retail arms as they reported their half-year results. Much of this has been due to staff cuts and branch closures.

The high street clearers have further to go until they are truly lean, but when cost-cutting is complete they will look for alternative sources of income.

These could include levying charges on current accounts, starting with a modest annual fee and

gradually increasing. Enjoy the free ride while it lasts.

About time too

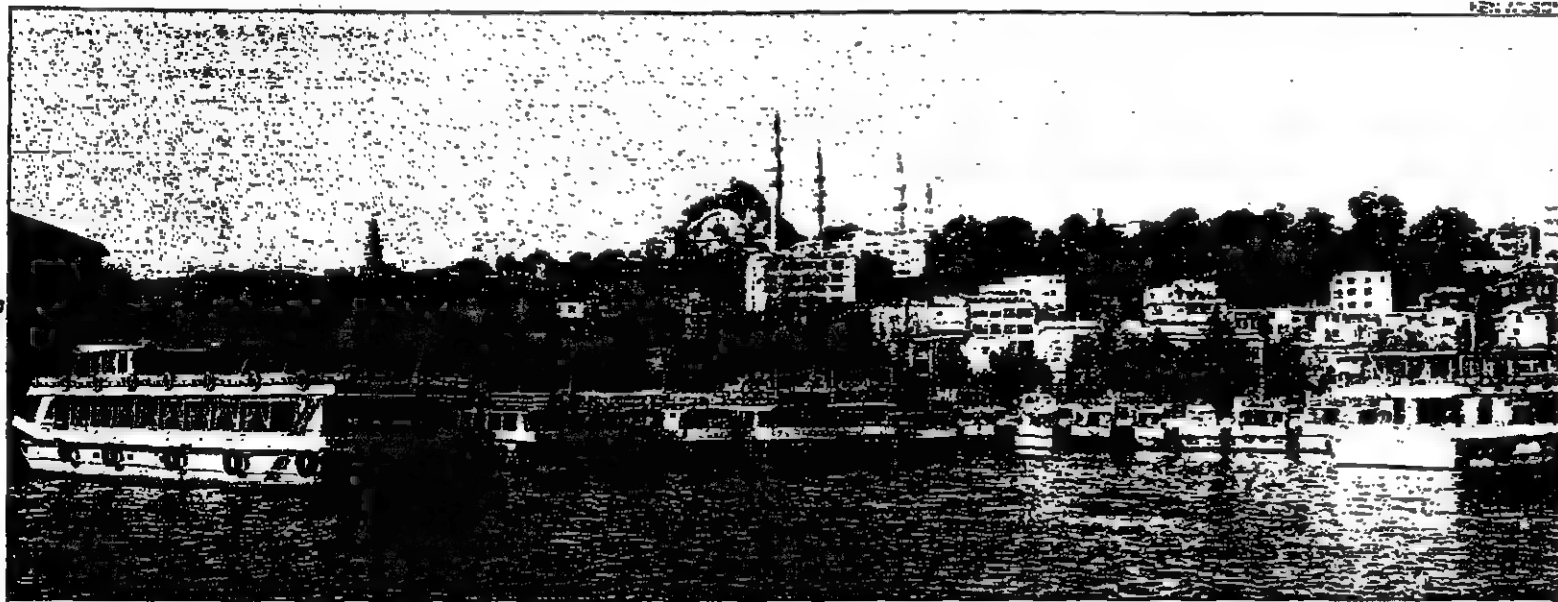
CAST-IRON guarantees from Prudential and Legal & General that victims of the pensions mis-selling will not suffer any financial loss on retirement are laudable and long-overdue. But it is still preferable for investors to be reinstated in occupational schemes now, rather than waiting 22 years for payment. There are few

other occasions when a wronged party has to wait almost a quarter of a century for redress. In the interim, victims will have no control over their pension and may be penalised if they take a career break. Regulatory bodies are unlikely to exist in their current form, and life companies may be tempted in the future to test in court the legality of the settlement.

The attraction of a guarantee for pension providers is that the bill is spread across a number of years.

The Personal Investment Authority must establish an industry standard for life company guarantees, so that all are subject to the same rigours. At present life companies propose their own guarantee, which the PIA then approves. Only now, after several years, is the PIA taking a tough stance with the industry. It would be a shame indeed if the issue of guarantees allowed the life companies to hoodwink us a second time.

Clare Stewart finds the best home for your holiday pounds



Istanbul will have many more joys to offer at this year's advantageous exchange rates

More Turkish delight all round

If you are heading for Turkey or Thailand for your holidays you are on a winner. Facing that France or Spain lock hot. But it has nothing to do with the quality of the beaches or the strength of the Sun. Instead it is the strength of the pound against foreign currencies.

While sterling's recent ascent had Britain's exporters counting the cost, UK holidaymakers have been cheering all the way to the bureau de change. In general sterling has performed best against European currencies, including several popular holiday destinations while remaining relatively unchanged against other international currencies.

There are exceptions such as Thailand, which has recently seen its currency drop by about one third against the pound, while the South Afri-

can rand has dipped by a fifth. Both, however, owe more to problems within their own countries than to the attraction of the strong pound. Visitors to Thailand, once one of the world's fastest growing economies, will now get about 44 Thai baht to the pound, compared with 36 baht a year ago. The rand is trading at 7.13 to the pound against 6.56 last August.

Comparing current exchange rates quoted by Thomas Cook with those offered a year ago, holidaymakers in Turkey appear the biggest winners. At the present rate of about 251,489 Turkish liras to the pound, Aegean-bound tourists will get £127.40 more for their money on a typical £250 currency order than a year ago. At the same time, Turkey has

seen prices pushed up by rising inflation, but it still represents good value.

Against Portuguese, Spanish, Greek and French currencies, the pound has also made strong progress. On average the rate changes add up to an extra £60 in your pocket, again on a £250 currency order. Gains are also to be made on Italian, lire and Cyprus pounds where the currency movements mean an extra £50 on a £250 currency order.

Outside continental Europe, modest gains can be made in Tunisia, where changes in the exchange rate buy £14.20 more dinars than last year. According to Thomas Cook's cost of holiday living index, a three-course set meal will cost about £7.95. A year ago it was £11.65. Similarly in Turkey a set meal priced at £8.60 last year is likely to cost £6.05 now.

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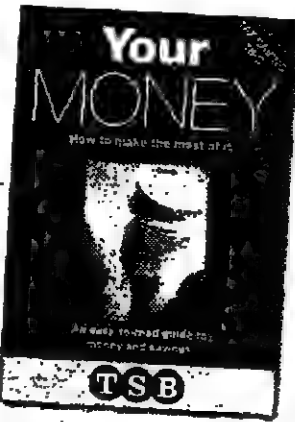
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As thousands of students rush for places, **Lizanne Rose** looks

Laura takes the offshore option



Laura Bender is a sixth-former at Westminster School, taking A-Levels in 1998. She is already saving, aware that a great deal of the cost of higher education will be passed on to students. She told Weekend Money how she has arranged her financial affairs.

She said: "I have money in my name put aside for me by my grandparents to help to pay for my university education. I have three savings accounts. The first is a Lloyd's 16-19 account, which I use for everyday purposes. I pay in my allowance, and money from babysitting, and use it mainly for entertainment and travel by train and Tube. It is especially useful for me since the bank gave me a cheque guarantee card a year early."

Laura thinks that the big banks try to appeal to student customers by giving away vouchers. However, this is a short-term and sometimes misguided attitude.

She said: "A friend of mine has opened accounts at every bank that offers vouchers and free gifts for young people. She has then either reduced the balance to a nominal

sum, or closed the account." On the attitude of banks to students, she said: "Although I appreciate being offered vouchers, I find the tone of the advertising patronising. A more important consideration for me, apart from interest rates, was the number of cashpoints around London, and the fact that Lloyd's is the bank closest to my home."

"I have considered opening another account with a bank that offers more 'freddie' incentives, but have never really thought it was worth it for the relatively small gain. My other two accounts are high-interest accounts, in which money to pay for university is kept - one offshore Jersey and Guernsey account, and one Sainsbury's Bank."

"Until I discovered Sainsbury's Bank, this money was in a Nationwide 90-day account. However, when I saw that Sainsbury's offered substantially better interest rates, I closed the account. I was particularly irritated to discover that if I had been under 17, Nationwide would have offered me much better rates. I don't think I am unusually financially aware, although having my money for university in my own name has made me more so."

Rush to beat the fees deadline

News that from October 1998, students will have to pay tuition fees has prompted a rush of applications from students who had planned to postpone taking up their college places for a year. Those who had intended to take a gap year are now scrambling to be admitted this September or October, and university admissions officers have been overwhelmed by calls.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) is running a series of urgent investigations to gauge the potential impact on clearing. Around 295,000 places are available and are being chased by 350,000 candidates.

The Government announced that a new unified student loan covering maintenance and tuition costs would be introduced and that the existing system of loans and grants

would be abolished. Means-tested fees of £1,000 each year would be charged from 1998, and the maintenance grant phased out. Students will be obliged to borrow not only to cover much of the cost of their maintenance at university but also to repay £1,000 a year of their teaching fees.

Students from poorer backgrounds will be exempt from paying for their tuition. Critics have suggested that although graduates will not have to start repaying loans until they are earning more than £10,000, they may be under increasing pressure to select degrees or universities which will lead to high-earning jobs.

The Student Loans Company will continue to administer the new loan scheme which will be phased in from October 1998. The current system of

loans, introduced under the Conservatives in 1990, will remain unaffected for this academic year. Repayment of loans from the Student Loans Company must begin in the April of the year after graduation.

The repayments are spread over five or seven years depending upon the number of loans taken out - you can take out one loan for each year you are at university. The rate of interest is set by the Education Secretary but is index-linked to inflation, so the value of the money paid back is equal to the value of the money borrowed. If your annual earnings as a graduate are less than 85 per cent of the national average income, ie less than £16,439 in 1997-98, payments may be deferred.

Additional research by Ifjuna Valt

ALLOWANCES UNDER STUDENT LOAN SCHEME

The Student Loans Scheme is a Government-funded loans scheme introduced under the Education (Students' Loans) Act 1990 and the Education (Students' Loans) (Northern Ireland) Order 1990. The Act and Order provide for loans to be made towards students' living costs.

LOAN FACILITIES	FULL YEAR 1996/97	FULL YEAR 1997/98	FULL YEAR 1997/98	FULL YEAR 1997/98
Students living away from home:				
- in London	£2,035	£1,485	£2,085	£1,520
- elsewhere	£1,645	£1,200	£1,685	£1,230
Living at home	£1,260	£920	£1,290	£945

Pick a policy before packing

For most students, the last thing on their minds, but some form is advisable, especially if you own a television, hi-fi or computer. Most banks offer lower rates for students but check that you are not already covered by your parents' contents insurance.

■ **Barclays:** Its student package covers personal belongings and college/landlord's property up to £5,000. Student pays first £30-50 worth of damage. Extras include theft of valuables and bicycles.

■ **Lloyds:** Offers a comprehensive student insurance with cover ranging from £2,000 to £4,000. Student pays first £25. Goods in transit to and from college are covered.

■ **Midland:** Contents and personal belongings - £2,000. Includes high-risk items. Rates depend on location of university and whether living out or in a hall of residence. Goods covered in transit.

■ **Bank of Scotland:** Special package for student belongings. Provides £1,500 for damage to landlord's property, £5,000 for travel accident. Additional cover for valuables.

■ **NatWest:** Student Protector policy has 10 per cent first-year discount on personal belongings.

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A switch in time for Tabitha

Tabitha Muner, 22 is training as a



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Clare Stewart takes her seat in the press box at the kick-off of the football investment championship

At the end of the day it has been a game of two halves and the boys have given 110 per cent but the value of your football investment can fall as well as rise. It is the time of year when pitch-side pundits and City followers of football pull on their favourite strip in preparation for the forthcoming season.

There are 18 quoted football clubs and more, including West Ham, lining up in the tunnel, but at present the football sector is a stock market minnow, capitalised at £1.3 billion. "Last year's ride on the stock market has been a real rollercoaster for football clubs," said Gerry Boon, head of the Deloitte & Touche industry team which this week published its *Annual Review of Football Finance*.

The rollercoaster ride was put down to "... growing pains and a sign of maturity — both the City and football are developing a better understanding of each other's mechanics and motives ..." it says. "This year the market has seen a healthy consolidation," said David Brooks, of Nomura, the broker. Its Foot-

ball Clubs Index clearly shows prices are moving up again, though still some way below peaks seen earlier this year, around the time of a number of floats such as Sunderland and Newcastle United, and the launch of the Football Fund, a vehicle for investment in a spread of clubs and sports-linked companies.

Within the sector, Premier League clubs in particular command most attention, not least because of their size and the importance of their income stream from merchandising and television rights. Among them, Manchester United remains a firm favourite with the City and supporters alike. It is the highest-rated stock in the sector, with its progress fuelled both by success on the pitch and its commercial strengths.

"It has a strong global image and brand name," said Nigel Hawkins, a football analyst at Yamaichi. Speculation that a large leisure or media group may make a bid for Manchester United adds to its appeal. Spurs is also on the buy lists of a number of brokers, again helped by the



Own goal for Newcastle United shareholders: Alan Shearer is injured at Goodison Park

strengths of its brand name and management. "It is one of the best run businesses and shows a company can perform well financially even if it is not so successful on the pitch," said Nick Battram, sports analyst at Greig Middleton.

Newcastle United has less enthusiastic City followers. After peaking at 140p shortly after coming to the market, the shares had a bumpy ride

and hit a low this year of 113-1/2. Management problems, injury for Alan Shearer and uncertainty over funding for its new stadium continue to hold back its share price.

Celtic looks attractive says Melanie Sharp, an analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, the broker. She says growth potential is considerable with scope for more commercial revenue. In addition the possibility of Celtic moving into the English

Premiership opens up the prospect of much higher television earnings for the club. Aston Villa has had a good run and, while rated one of the sector's quality investments, it is seen as fully valued, with some suggestion that the £6.5 million paid for Stan Collymore was a little high. But whichever team you support, brokers say remember to curb your passion and spread your holdings.

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OFFSHORE FUND PERFORMANCE TO 1ST AUGUST 1977				
	SINCE LAUNCH	POSITION	5 YEARS	FUND
	% CHANGE	IN SECTOR	% CHANGE	RISK/RATE
International Growth	+732.7	3 out of 18	+115.8	AAA
Emerging Companies	+792.0	1 out of 28	+136.6	AAA
Americas Growth	+1366.5	1 out of 12	+148.9	AA
Far Eastern Growth	+444.6	1 out of 13	+166.3	AAA
Japanese Growth	+25.3	12 out of 73	+38.4	-
European Growth	+279.2	3 out of 5	+124.8	-
UK Growth	+399.8	1 out of 24	+137.8	AAA
Asian Smaller Markets	+118.4	9 out of 80	-	-
Latin American Growth	+65.4	11 out of 75	-	AA

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Print Name _____
(Last/First/Initial)
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Postcode _____
TIMC 09/08/97

What a way to run an industry



From Mr I. D. Watson
Sir, Half-way through an overseas tour, my daughter was home for more than three weeks in June. Warning everyone she had a fixed departure, she had no problems with:

- ☐ DVLA changing the address on her driving licence.
- ☐ The Revenue in submitting and clearing her tax return.
- ☐ local plumber organising a new kitchen sink.
- ☐ NHS carrying out tests for a suspected foreign bug.

The failures were:

- Halifax, which even now has still not managed to provide a statement of her mortgage account from last September, let alone start the process for repaying the small

balance outstanding, which was the original request.

□ Royal Bank of Scotland, which, despite assurances that changing the type of her credit card in the period available was absolutely no problem, in fact left her for her first 17 days in the US with no credit card!

What is wrong with Britain's financial services industry that it cannot manage even simple administrative tasks? Surely it must realise back-of-the-fence incompetence creates bad will, even if it does create entertaining bar-room stories.

Yours faithfully,
I.D. WATSON,
Stane House,
Woodcote End,
Epsom,
Surrey.

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DIRECT LINE RATES

SAVINGS RATES

Direct Line Instant Access Accounts

BALANCE	
£1 - £4,999	
£5,000 - £9,999	
£10,000 - £24,999	
£25,000 - £49,999	
£50,000 - £99,999	
£100,000+	

MORTGAGE RATE

Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate

VARIABLE RATE	
APR	

All rates correct as 4th August 1997.



DIRECT LINE
FINANZIA: 157/002

0181 649 9099

0181 667 1121

Source: Direct Line Financial Services. For further information about either of the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number above, citing ref. TTBB17.

[illegible]

Revenue allays investors' fears

Woolwich members who receive their share certificates late will still have 42 days in which to transfer into a personal equity plan (PEP) if they want to, the Inland Revenue has confirmed. (Gavin Lumsden writes.)

This is good news for up to 10,000 people still waiting for their certificates a month after the former building society floated on the Stock Exchange.

Windfall investors need to send their certificates in with their PEP application forms. Under the Inland Revenue's rules they have 42 days from the date of allocation to do so.

Investors became alarmed this week when a Revenue spokesman said the date of allocation had to be the date of flotation, July 7, giving an immovable final deadline of August 15.

This raised fears that they would miss out on the opportunity of sheltering their windfall from the PEP tax shelter through no fault of their own.

However, the Revenue has now said the date of allocation can be the date on the share certificate.

In practice, the Woolwich says, investors will have 42 days from the Monday of the

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Instant Access Accounts				
Clydebank Bank 0800 445265	Savings	Instant	£25	6.50
Cheltenham & Gloucester 0800 742437	Instant Transfer	Instant	£1,000	6.75
Legal & General Bank 0800 112120	Direct Access	Instant	£10,000	7.00
Alliance & Leicester 0800 412214	First CIs Inst	Instant	£10,000	7.25
Notice Accounts & Bonds				
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 825629	60 Day Notice	60 day p	£500	6.50
Irish Permanent 0800 973321	Extra Post	60 day p	£25,000	7.10
Northern Rock 0800 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.50
Northern Rock 0800 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£25,000	7.65

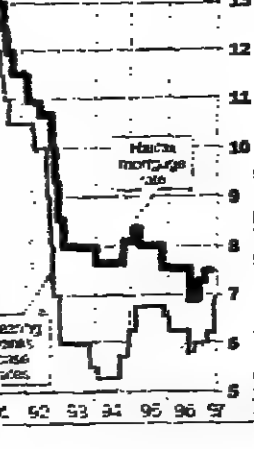
Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
First TESSAS (TAX FREE)				
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed+feeder a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.55
Melton Mowbray 01684 63937	Fixed+feeder a/c	5 year	£1,000	7.50
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1680	Premium+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.45
Principality 01222 344188	Premium+feeder	5 year	£900	7.45

Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Credit Cards			
Capital One Bank 0800 668000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	8.90%N
Co-operative Bank 0800 108000	Advantage Visa	0.67%N	10.90%N

APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Personal Loans		
Northern Rock 0800 505000	12.90%N	£114.29
Direct Line 0181 880 9265	13.90%N	£127.07
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%N	£131.45

N.B. = Minimum age 22 years. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's existing customers. E = Windwardwardly Varying Clearing System. C = No interest free period. D = Rate includes bonus. F = Fixed Rate. G = Variable Rate. H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged. N = Introductory rate for a limited period. P = By Post only. * RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING. Source: Moneyfacts, The Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)

BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



NATIONAL SAVINGS

Gross rate	At tax rate	Min. investment	Max. investment	Notes	Contact
Ordinary A/c	1.50	1.20	10-10,000	1mch	0645 645050
Investment A/c	4.75	3.80	25-500,000	1mch	0645 645050
Income Bond	6.00	8.00	100-250,000	3mch	0645 645050
First Child Bond	6.25	5.00	3,750-100,000	1mch	0645 645050
44th Issue Cert	5.35	100-10,000	8day	0645 645050	
Children's Bond	6.75	25-10,000	1mch	0645 645050	
Gen En Bond	3.51	100-10,000	8day	0645 645050	
Capital Bonds	6.85	5.32	100-250,000	5day	0645 645050
11th Ind Linklet	2.75	100-10,000	8day	0645 645050	
Pensions Bond	5.70	5.60	500-50,000	8day	0645 645050

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance			
SINGLE LIFE (level ann)			
Male	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Generall	£9,551	£10,594	£11,282
Newnorth	£9,488	£10,476	£11,161
Equitable	£9,534	£10,482	£11,175
Royal Sun All	£9,249	£10,398	£11,151
Sun Life	£9,207	£10,327	£11,140
SINGLE LIFE (Female)			
Female	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential	£8,791	£9,601	£10,788
Canada Life	£8,727	£9,543	£10,734
Generall	£8,558	£9,516	£10,704
Newnorth	£8,750	£9,513	£10,684
Royal Sun All	£8,561	£9,365	£10,612
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)			
Male	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Generall	£8,551	£9,097	£9,761
Newnorth	£8,525	£9,099	£9,829
Equitable	£8,525	£9,099	£9,829
Prudential	£8,311	£8,848	£9,571
Equitable	£8,277	£8,813	£9,547

Source: Annuity Rates 1997, 1998

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max. age	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury	4.85	£15-100k	85	3% discount for 1 year
Cheshire	5.84	£30-150k	95	2% discount for 2 years
Coventry	5.95	to £80k	95	2.25% discount for 1 year
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc 6 mths
1189 510100	5.20	£25-250k	95	3% disc 6 mths
Halifax plc	5.20	£25-250k	95	0.5% lower sw-10.04

Larger lenders' rates and features listed by Lizanne Rose 1997, 1998

LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max. age	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Cheshire	1.20	£30-100k	95	6.99% disc 6 mths
Coventry	2.20	£20-150k	95	2% disc 6 mths
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc 6 mths
1189 510100	4.99	to £125k	75	Fixed until 31.01.99

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Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc 6 mths
1189 510100	4.99	to £125k	75	Fixed until 31.01.99

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GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Rates as at August 7, 1997			
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.95
	5,000	GE Fin Assur	5.20
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	*5.80
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.70
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.50
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.70
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.75
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.65
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.70
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.25
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.25
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.70

United Edition

* Limited Edition. Source: Charitable Bonds 0171-434 6222. National Assurance and Capital Guarantees. Some surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Fixed Rate				
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	119.32	7.580	100.17
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	143.40	6.107	100.13
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	160.27	8.111	100.20
Britannia	13.000%	159.30	8.161	100.42
Coventry	12.125%	155.80	7.721	100.75
First National	11.750%	142.84	6.226	100.25
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	165.48	8.083	100.25
Newcastle	10.750%	132.19	6.102	100.32
Newcastle	12.625%	156.67	8.110	100.45
Northern Rock	12.625%	154.51	8.150	100.14
Skipton	12.675%	159.32	8.081	100.48

Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Floating Rate				
Cheshire (30/09/27/03/97)	0.0463%	117.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat (22/09-20/03)	0.12031%	104.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent Interest-bearing Shares. Source: ABI NABO Home Loans - 0171 881 0101

SHARE IN FOCUS: STANDARD CHARTERED PROFITS AND DIVIDEND RISE



LARGER LENDERS

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UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit	Value	Change	Unit	Value	Change
Unit 1	100.00	+0.10	Unit 2	100.00	+0.10
Unit 3	100.00	+0.10	Unit 4	100.00	+0.10
Unit 5	100.00	+0.10	Unit 6	100.00	+0.10
Unit 7	100.00	+0.10	Unit 8	100.00	+0.10
Unit 9	100.00	+0.10	Unit 10	100.00	+0.10

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Unit 3	100.00	+0.10	Unit 4	100.00	+0.10
Unit 5	100.00	+0.10	Unit 6	100.00	+0.10
Unit 7	100.00	+0.10	Unit 8	100.00	+0.10
Unit 9	100.00	+0.10	Unit 10	100.00	+0.10

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

By East Age	364.00	383.30	+19.30	...	Sapphire Mixed	388.10	400.60	+12.50	...
Married Capital	695.30	731.80	+36.50	..	Ruby	221.20	232.90	+11.70	...
to Age	1509.30	1586.60	+77.30	...	Emerald	166.60	175.40	+8.80	...

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SET

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Profit-taking in blue chips

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997				1997				1997				1997			
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES															
110.00	109.50	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	109.75	110.00	109.50	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	109.75	110.00	109.50	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	109.75	110.00	109.50	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	109.75
BANKS															
110.00	109.50	BANKS	109.75	110.00	109.50	BANKS	109.75	110.00	109.50	BANKS	109.75	110.00	109.50	BANKS	109.75
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST															
110.00	109.50	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST	109.75	110.00	109.50	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST	109.75	110.00	109.50	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST	109.75	110.00	109.50	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST	109.75
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT															
110.00	109.50	BUILDING & CONSTRUCT	109.75	110.00	109.50	BUILDING & CONSTRUCT	109.75	110.00	109.50	BUILDING & CONSTRUCT	109.75	110.00	109.50	BUILDING & CONSTRUCT	109.75
BUILDING MATERIALS															
110.00	109.50	BUILDING MATERIALS	109.75	110.00	109.50	BUILDING MATERIALS	109.75	110.00	109.50	BUILDING MATERIALS	109.75	110.00	109.50	BUILDING MATERIALS	109.75
CHEMICALS															
110.00	109.50	CHEMICALS	109.75	110.00	109.50	CHEMICALS	109.75	110.00	109.50	CHEMICALS	109.75	110.00	109.50	CHEMICALS	109.75
DISTRIBUTORS															
110.00	109.50	DISTRIBUTORS	109.75	110.00	109.50	DISTRIBUTORS	109.75	110.00	109.50	DISTRIBUTORS	109.75	110.00	109.50	DISTRIBUTORS	109.75
ELECTRICITY															
110.00	109.50	ELECTRICITY	109.75	110.00	109.50	ELECTRICITY	109.75	110.00	109.50	ELECTRICITY	109.75	110.00	109.50	ELECTRICITY	109.75
ELECTRONIC & ELECT															
110.00	109.50	ELECTRONIC & ELECT	109.75	110.00	109.50	ELECTRONIC & ELECT	109.75	110.00	109.50	ELECTRONIC & ELECT	109.75	110.00	109.50	ELECTRONIC & ELECT	109.75
ENGINEERING															
110.00	109.50	ENGINEERING	109.75	110.00	109.50	ENGINEERING	109.75	110.00	109.50	ENGINEERING	109.75	110.00	109.50	ENGINEERING	109.75
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES															
110.00	109.50	ENGINEERING, VEHICLES	109.75	110.00	109.50	ENGINEERING, VEHICLES	109.75	110.00	109.50	ENGINEERING, VEHICLES	109.75	110.00	109.50	ENGINEERING, VEHICLES	109.75
FOOD MANUFACTURERS															
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LEISURE & HOTELS															
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OTHER FINANCIAL															
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RACING: DEFECTION OF KING OF KINGS LEAVES WAY CLEAR FOR GODOLPHIN FILLY

Asfurah to claim group one prize

BY OUR RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE defection of King Of Kings, the one-time 2000 Guineas favourite, to tomorrow's Heinz 57 Phoenix Stakes at Leopardstown gives Godolphin's Asfurah a clear chance to lap Europe's first group one juvenile event of the season.

The withdrawal of King Of Kings has robbed the race of much of its interest, but Aidan O'Brien still has four of the nine runners in the six-furlong contest. O'Brien said yesterday: "The decision would have been to run but, in King Of Kings' best interests, we have decided not to. We will think about the Futurity Stakes at the Curragh instead and worry about a group one later."

Stable jockey Christy Roche will now ride the Coventry Stakes winner, Harbour Master, and O'Brien said: "The



O'Brien four-handed

thinkers worked well on Harbour Master at Ascot and he has been working well since. O'Brien will not doubt be encouraged by how well another of his hopefuls, Danyruss, ran to finish fourth behind Asfurah in Newmarket's Cherry Hinton Stakes.

but Asfurah showed enough in winning that competitive event by a length from Crazee Mental to suggest that she is capable of re-establishing Britain's hold on the Heinz.

British-trained runners have won this seven times since 1987 and Asfurah's rider, Frankie Dettori, learned the winning formula by collecting on Pips Price in 1992. The indications are that Asfurah could be better than that Richard Hannon-trained colt.

Her Cherry Hinton victory proved Asfurah had progressed from winning the Windsor Castle Stakes at Ascot last year, but what impressed most was her willingness to dig deep when challenged in the closing stages. That blend of precocity and courage will be a hard combination for tomorrow's opposition, which also includes Princely Heir and Pool Music from Britain.

A winner at Ripon and Beverley, the Mark Johnston-

trained Princely Heir should improve significantly from running third to the subsequent Molecomb Snakes winner, Lady Alexander, and King Of Kings in the Curragh's Anglesey Stakes last month.

However, it is hard to see him winning tomorrow and a bigger danger to Asfurah could be another O'Brien-trained horse, Flame Violet.

Flame Violet was only a

short-head winner of a listed race over the course and distance last month, but her trainer is nevertheless convinced that the filly is substantially better than her bare form might suggest.

There could be another group success for the British raiders in the group three Phoenix Sprint, where David Loder's Abou Zouf may have too much pace for his first strong opposition.

LEOPARDSTOWN TOMORROW

3.20 HEINZ 57 PHOENIX STAKES

(Group 1, 2-Y-O £38,000 6f) (9 runners)

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| 1 | (1) 100 MARLBOROUGH MASTER 54 (B) D J O'Brien (Aidan O'Brien) 5-11 | 2 | (2) 100 MARLBOROUGH MASTER 54 (B) D J O'Brien (Aidan O'Brien) 5-11 |
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MOTOR RACING

Hard bargaining leads Coulthard into sales drive

FROM MICHAEL CADVIN IN BUDAPEST

THE job centre reopened for business in the pastoral setting of Mogyorod, on the wooded outskirts of Budapest, yesterday, as preparations for the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday were inevitably overshadowed by the seasonal struggle for survival.

David Coulthard responded to Damon Hill's implicit challenge for his job by claiming second place on the provisional grid behind Michael Schumacher, an effective amplification of the Scot's increasingly insistent claims for retention by McLaren.

For Hill, in fifth place after the solitary lap his Arrows mechanic was able to give him in the gravel section of the day, there was compensation in the visible discomfort of Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the man who has conspicuously failed to fill his seat at Williams.

Given the fraught circumstances, emphasised by Jacques Villeneuve's struggle to be eleventh fastest, it was not the most diplomatic of gestures for Frentzen to criticise the team for being unnecessarily diverted by the rule changes that will come into force next season.

Such dissent is frowned upon because of the evidence it offers of the internal weaknesses exposed by Ferrari's unexpected dominance of both the drivers' and constructors' world championship this year. Coming at the height of Formula One's silly season, where rumours become holy writ in moments, it was merely self-destructive.

Any change at Williams will

inevitably trigger a domino effect down the pit lane, which is presently preoccupied by the employment prospects of Hill, who has a rare chance to excel on the high-downforce, low-speed Hungarian circuit.

Peter Sauber, the owner of the eponymous Swiss team, confirmed yesterday that his attempts to sign Hill for next season, which would have been funded by Petronas, the Malaysian conglomerate, had failed. "We met several times and discussed terms, but we could not resolve our relationship," he said. "It had nothing to do with money."

That, inevitably, lent credence to suggestions that Hill's links with McLaren were strengthened significantly in recent days. The team's managing director, Ron Dennis, has asked Hill to keep him informed of developments, and Mercedes have dropped their insistence on the team featuring a German driver.



Coulthard negotiating

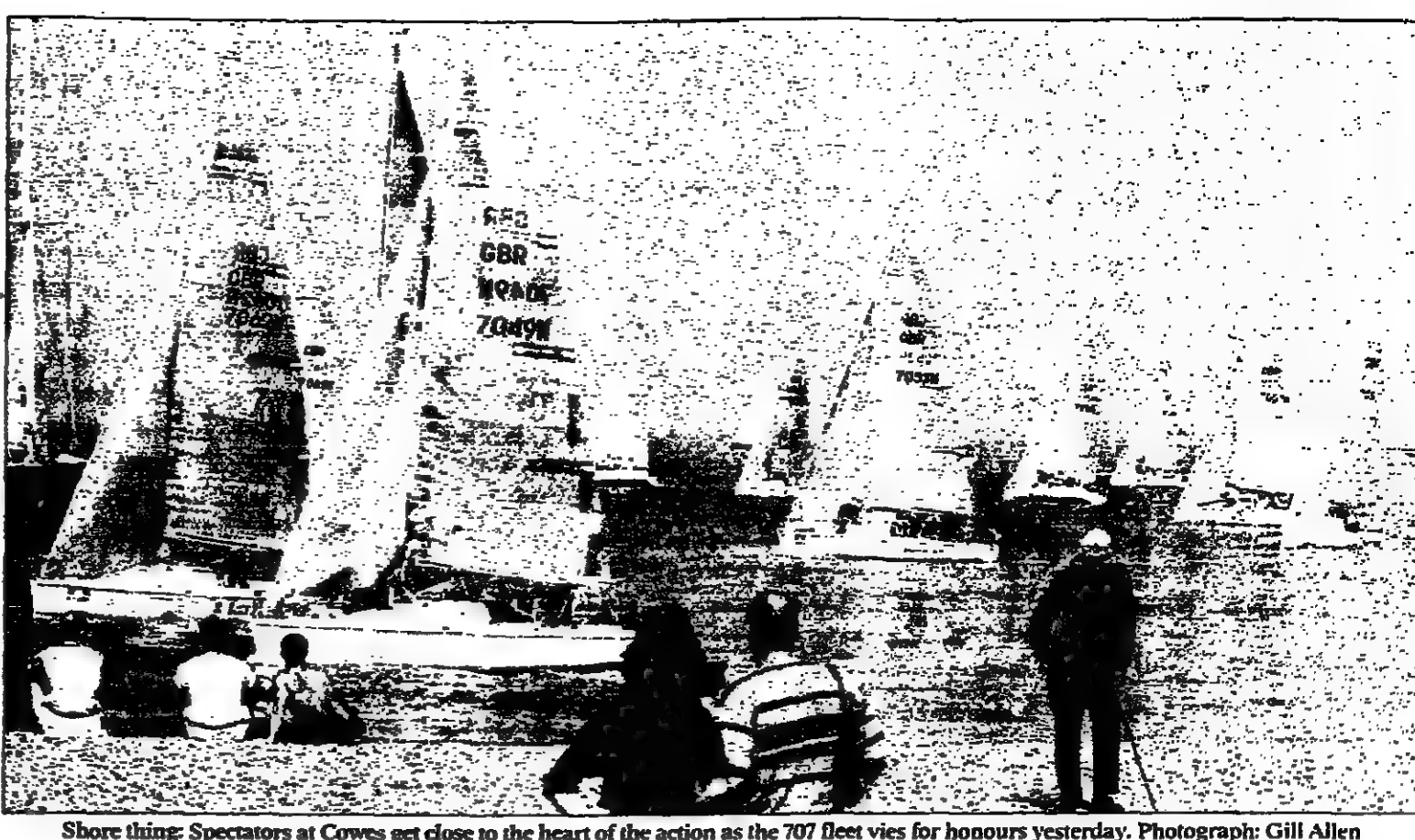
The world champion made a clandestine visit to McLaren's headquarters in Woking on Tuesday. Informed sources believe his recruitment on an annual contract worth between £5 million and £7 million, is a possibility. This, given the sudden resurgence in the form of McLaren's former driver, Mika Hakkinen, presents a genuine threat to Coulthard, who is negotiating his own future after instituting legal action against the International Management Group, his previous representatives.

"I don't think there is any danger of Damon being given my place," he said yesterday. "It is a question of whether they see him as the future, or not. I can wait, and I am only 26. I am going to be younger and cheaper."

It is, unarguably, a buyer's market. Typically, Jean Alesi sought out Eddie Jordan, his former employer, in the privacy of his motorhome yesterday morning. Since no one at Benetton seeks to contradict the conventional wisdom that the Frenchman's contract will not be renewed, there was something poignant about his subsequent admission that "it is important for me to get better results."

Intriguingly, Jordan could yet become a significant player in the future of both Hill and Coulthard, although he has had no official contact with the world champion since a meeting at a hotel at East Midlands Airport last autumn, which left him with the impression he had secured Hill for 1997.

He appreciates the logic of Hill being engineered into a drive at McLaren, and understands Coulthard's long-term potential. Before that has any relevance, however, he would have to lose his legal fight to retain the services of Giancarlo Fisichella, who is understood to be going to court in Switzerland on Monday to free himself from a ten-year personal management contract with Flavio Briatore. Briatore's managing director, All this, of course, has nothing to do with the racing. At this time of year, a grand prix merely gets in the way of the manoeuvring.



Shore thing: Spectators at Cowes get close to the heart of the action as the 707 fleet vies for honours yesterday. Photograph: Gill Allen

McNeill's Vanity fares well at Cowes

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a horrible start to the morning, when fog forced the principal race officer of the day, Tony Lovell, to delay proceedings for a couple of hours, Skandia Life Cowes Week finally took on a more familiar hue as the breeze filled in nicely from the west, the sun was the only feature in a cloudless sky and 920 yachts, of all shapes and sizes, were racing for as far as the eye could see.

Along the Isle of Wight shore there were some classic windward bunties as successive White Group fleets set off from the Royal Yacht Squadron and tracked their way as close as they

dared along a beach thronged with spectators. Ahead of the Glenfiddich Melges 24s were the International Etchells, the local experts at getting out of the flood tide.

It was Julian Smith, in *Elusive*, who made the best of it, emerging at the Elephant mark 25 seconds ahead of Eddie Warwick's *No 6* and holding on to win with Robert Tywin-Drake's *Desperate* second and Warwick third.

After the Dragons and Darlings had carved their way elegantly up the same shore, it was at last the chance for the biggest and, some would say, the most exciting fleet at Cowes, the X-Boats, to have a go. The X-Boat owners have had a frustrating week, managing just one completed race in the first six days as

successive race officers cancelled them for either a lack of wind or too much of it.

They may have been designed in 1908 but there is nothing remotely sloppy about the X-Boat fleet. Indeed there appear to be few boats sailing this year whose owners had not been to the sailmaker at the beginning of the season. Among the early pacemakers were *X71 Wenda*, skippered by Clare Pimm, and *X171 Charisse*, owned by Ronald Rogers.

It was, though, *X47 Vanity*, helmed by Willy McNeill, that popped out at the top mark at the head of the pack. From there he built a useful lead, and was almost three minutes ahead of the second-placed *X43 Moonfleet*, owned

by Horace Mellory-Pratt, by the first leeward mark. McNeill held on until the finish, with *Moonfleet* second and *X42 Persephone*, owned by Richard and Liz Field, third.

In the Glenfiddich Melges 24s, meanwhile, the prize for the week was settled yesterday when Kevin Sproul, at the helm of *Glenfiddich 1*, finished second in the fifth race of the series, which was enough to take the title. Sproul, a former European champion in 420s, was unlucky to come seventh in the first race, but followed that up with three straight wins in a competitive semi-professional fleet.

He was delighted to win after his second place, behind Giorgio Zucchi, of Italy, at Kiel Week in June.

BOWLS

Hawes flies the flag for youth

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

WHEN Katherine Hawes, who lost to Mary Price in the four-woman singles final last year, won the two-woman championship at Royal Leamington Spa yesterday, she became, at 21, one of the youngest winners of a national women's bowls title.

The City and County of Oxford players were extended only in the first round when Christine Wooler, of Surrey, held her to a modest 14-11 victory, the only time Hawes was required to play 21 ends.

In the final, too, she was always in control, taking a 14-6 lead over Ann Parker, of Nottinghamshire, after 14 ends, and winning 16-9 after 18 ends — or seven up and three to play.

The pairs final today should be a contrast in styles. Debbie Healey and Sharon Rickman, of Raynes Park, have been serving the jack all week, while Ann Beale and Carol Duckworth, of Braintree, rely heavily on Duckworth's ability to convert adverse situations.

If the pony-tailed Healey, 35, and Rickman, 33, an indoor international for ten years, present the aggressive Duckworth, a former Zambia singles champion, with targets she needs, there should be some fireworks.

Raynes Park beat Marseke's Peggy Madden, a former British Isles singles champion, very well and holding serve the party easy, it's one of those matches where I just got a little bit lucky and hung in there. It could have gone either way," Jan Siemerink, of Holland,

TENNIS

Sampras has to dig deep to oust Rafter

PETE SAMPRAS had a tough match against Patrick Rafter, the sixteenth seed from Australia, before securing a 7-6, 6-4 third-round victory at the ATP championship in Mason, Ohio, yesterday.

"It was a little bit of luck," the world No 1 said of his victory. "He was serving very, very well and holding serve the party easy, it's one of those matches where I just got a little bit lucky and hung in there. It could have gone either way," Jan Siemerink, of Holland,

ranked 36th in the world, put out Goran Ivanisevic, the third seed from Croatia, 6-4, 6-4 in another third-round match between two left-handers.

Monica Seles yesterday played nearly flawless tennis to beat Natasha Zvereva, of Belarus, in 43 minutes and reach the semi-final of the Acura Classic tournament, in Manhattan Beach, California. After her 6-1, 6-1 win, the American said: "Whatever I tried worked well — serve, return, moving well."

DETAILS FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

PRAGUE (1st round): 1. M. Schumacher (Ger) 70.7, 2. J. Villeneuve (Can) 70.7, 3. D. Coulthard (GB) 70.7, 4. J. Frentzen (Ger) 70.7, 5. J. Alesi (Fra) 70.7, 6. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 7. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 8. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 9. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 10. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 11. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 12. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 13. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 14. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 15. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 16. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 17. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 18. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 19. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 20. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 21. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 22. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 23. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 24. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 25. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 26. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 27. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 28. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 29. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 30. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 31. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 32. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 33. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 34. J. B. Agazzi (Ita) 70.7, 35. J. 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Pace of Malcolm and belligerence of Stewart combine briefly to rekindle Ashes ambitions

Warne brings England back down to earth

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of five): England, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 239 runs behind Australia

EACH August, in their annual hour of need, the instinctive response of the England selectors is to shelve the fairweather policies of youth, continuity and balance in favour of another fling for Devon Malcolm and a crippling workload for Alec Stewart. It is a short-term salvage strategy, but it enabled England to spend two-thirds of a stirring day in dreamland.

Malcolm's regular mixture of the unplayable and the unspeakable contributed three of the seven Australia wickets to fall in a little over two hours, a barely believable start to the second day of this fifth Cornhill Test. Then, in pursuit of 427 when the worst-case scenario had been 200 runs more, Stewart batted with conviction for the first time this summer.

Half an hour after tea on a day of oppressive heat, England were 106 without loss and Stewart was bustling towards a century. It had been an uplifting performance by a team widely believed to have conceded the Ashes 24 hours earlier. Now, the victory it would take to keep the prize alive was not quite so unimaginable.

Within an hour, such fanciful thoughts were crushed as England lost four wickets for 35. The first three of them went to Shane Warne, who recovered from some disrespectful treatment by Stewart to bowl quite beautifully. He will probably win this game for Australia; he will surely ensure that they cannot lose.

England, then, seem doomed to disappointment

and yet, on the cricket that they have played in this match so far, the usual British tendencies to scepticism and scapegoats would be inappropriate. Outclassed they may be, but England have battled with a spirit worthy of admiration.

Fortune turned its back on them on Thursday, when they missed out on an important toss and a couple of early umpiring decisions, but heads were never permitted to drop. Yesterday morning, overdue rewards were claimed. The ball was relatively new, the early haze had not yet burned off and life for the Australia batsmen was made extremely difficult.

Andy Caddick was at them like a persistent wasp. His line was immaculate and he regularly induced steep bounce and movement off the seam. Mark Waugh survived one leg-before appeal, playing no shot in Caddick's second over, but was unarguably in line as he pushed half-forward in his third.

This gave Caddick his 50th Test wicket, four years after his first. Dean Headley will not require so long, provided



Malcolm: destructive

he remains fit. He too had deserved better figures on Thursday and he set about improving them by committing Ricky Ponting to an indeterminate shot, shuffling across his crease and chopping the ball on.

Healy narrowly survived his first ball, edging to second slip on the half-volley, and his innings was brief and breezy. The recall of Malcolm first brought a long hop, pulled with relish for four, but when he found a proper length Healy edged his drive and Adam Hogg took the catch at waist height.

Malcolm had been utterly ineffective on Thursday, his action falling away and his direction consequently awry. Now, for no other reason than the adrenalin of a wicket, he launched into one of those destructive bursts that inflame his reputation and seduce so many into overlooking the majority of his Test returns.

Warne, groping at a ball angled into him, collected his third nought of the series and then Steve Waugh, having continued Ben Hollis's education with the violent disposal of some friendly half-volleys, lost his off stump to a ball of searing speed.

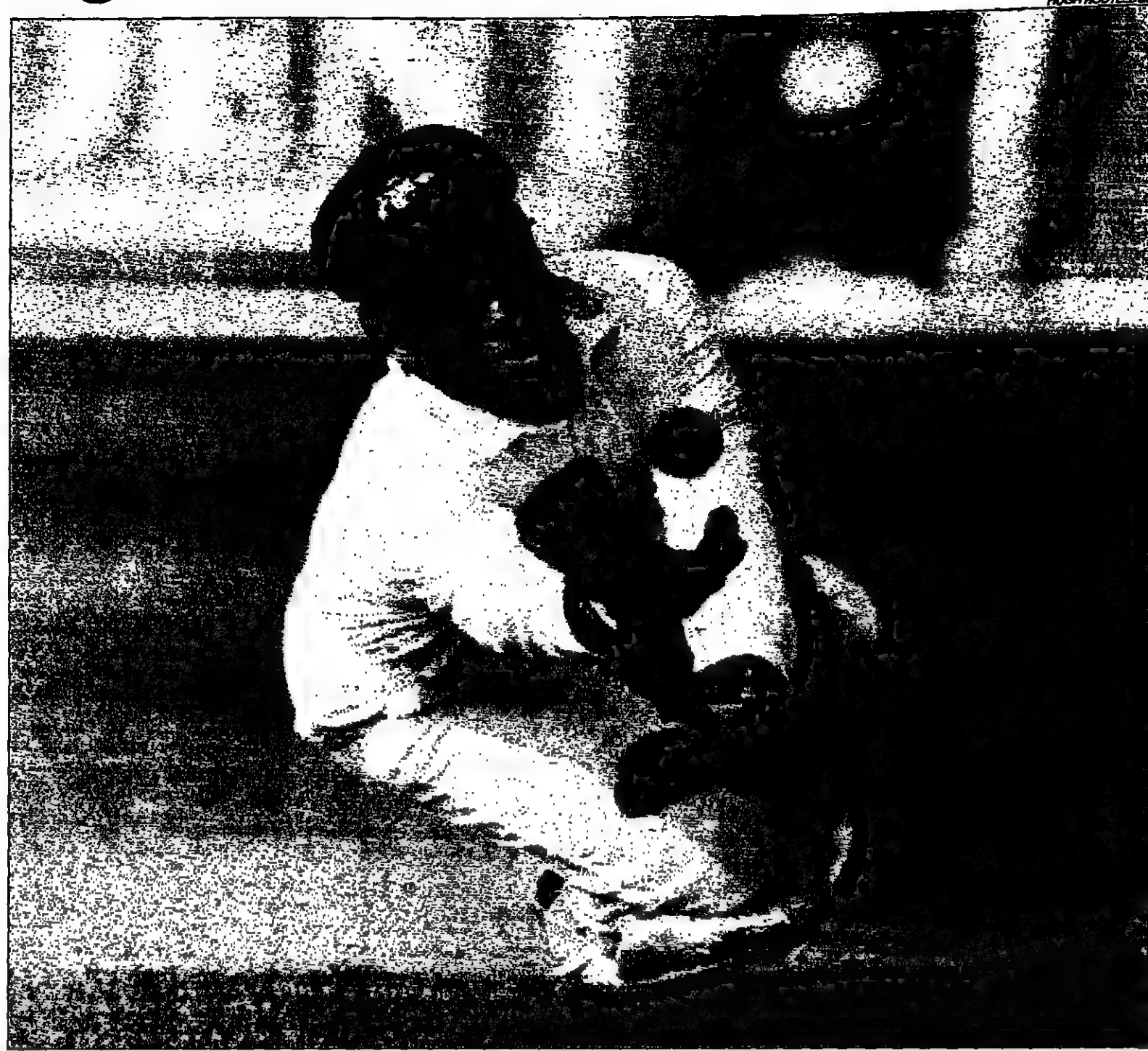
Waugh's 75 completed a symmetrical but curious Australia effort in which the top five all scored between 50 and 76. Malcolm, meanwhile, had taken three for 14 in 20 balls and although the ninth wicket added 33, Headley returned to wrap things up with the total just within acceptable bounds.

Only one of England's previous eight first-wicket stands in this series had reached 50 and Atherton and Stewart did not instantly promise an improvement. Stewart looked jumpy and both men were periodically beaten during some fine new-ball bowling from McGrath.

The Australians were repelled, or at least their first wave, and when Stewart took 18 off an over from Jason Gillespie, the crowd began to believe that they might be witnessing something remarkable. Before tea, Stewart reached 50 from only 61 balls and the public address warning about heat exhaustion might equally have referred to overheated hope.

Atherton had scored at precisely one run per over when he pushed at Warne with his bat angled and gave Healy a regulation catch. The one that dismissed Stewart, for a vivid 87, was anything but routine: the ball turned, flying at Healy from Stewart's edged drive, and he could only parry it before spinning and plunging to get a glove under the ball as it fell behind him.

Nasser Hussain was bowled and when McGrath bowled Crawley gloving a rising ball down the leg side, England were suddenly, madly, in peril of the follow-on. The elder Hollis betrayed no nerves and added 47 with Thorpe, but this pair face a monumental mission today.



Healy makes a magnificent recovery to hold the catch that ended the exhilarating innings of Stewart and began England's sharp decline

Stewart hints at what might have been

Like all unsuccessful or unlucky teams, England have a thousand apologies and a million regrets. If only Alec Stewart had batted as commandingly earlier this summer as he did in his late, glorious flowering yesterday. If only the bowlers had stuck to their task as gamely as they did here. If only the selectors had not been afflicted by pitchitis. If only Michael Atherton had won the occasional toss.

The if-only game will never run out of participants, particularly ones with coronets on their caps. It went on right to the end last night, as the Australians took a firm grip of a Test that was beginning, however briefly, to evade their customary measure of control. If only Healy had responded less nimbly to the edged drive that flew off his gloves, or if Hussain had taken a full stride towards meeting the ball from Warner that bowled him.

But England cannot in all honesty claim they have been dithered. Test matches are games of skill, not chance, and by submitting four wickets last night on a pitch that is not obviously

Michael Henderson looks back in anguish at some England causes for regret during this Ashes series

any less good than the one on which Australia batted, they surrendered the opportunity of building a formidable total today, which was their only hope of putting Australia on the back foot.

Stewart's inability to impose himself on the Australian bowling until yesterday afternoon, when he returned to the top of the order, has been as important as any factor in the series. It cannot by itself account for the fact that Australia lead the series 2-1 but his failures in the important position of No 3 have been of a piece with England's failure to take the initiative when the game lay in the balance.

Michael Atherton is not suited to the role of aggressor. Mark Butcher, brought into the side at the start of the series, began his Test career with some trepidation, and his subsequent demotion, though a shade unfortunate, proved how right he was. Stewart was deemed the man equipped with the

range of stroke, and the steadiness of nerve, to disrupt the bowlers, particularly McGrath, who offers so little to kill.

Only on that madcap Sunday night at Edgbaston, when Stewart and Atherton, intoxicated by the heady atmosphere, belted England to victory with a succession of lusty blows, has Stewart really played with freedom. The Australians have shackled him so successfully that, given his responsibilities behind the wicket, and an average against them of 25, it was thought prudent to drop him down to No 6.

He resisted and was instead reunited with the captain for the first time since the last Test against Pakistan last summer. After a day and a half in the field, which is not usually the best preparation for opening the innings in Test cricket, he responded in a way that gave the crowd something worth cheering.

He batted so well, playing the pull and the square drive with equal distinction, that a hundred, which would have been his first against Australia, appeared to be his. It was not to be and, following his departure, an innings that seemed to be thoroughly chartered lost its drive and sense of purpose.

In the 26 overs they were together Stewart and Atherton offered another reminder of the contrasting styles and moods that have served England so well. They have both been through the mill in their careers, but as cricketers they appear to have been forged, not made, and are not about to stand aside meekly.

Until young Klingsor got to work after tea, to add three more wickets to his extraordinary roster, there was something muted about his Test.

It felt as though the Australians, who do not have to win it in order to retain the Ashes, were happy to settle for a draw. It lacked intensity. However, for England to sneak out of this game with a draw now would be very good news.

SCOREBOARD FROM TRENT BRIDGE

Australia won toss	
AUSTRALIA: First innings	
M T G Elliott c Stewart b Headley	69
(157min, 176 balls, 10 fours)	
*M A Taylor b Caddick	76
(218min, 185 balls, 12 fours)	
G S Blain c Stewart	50
(144min, 115 balls, 7 fours)	
M E Waugh lbw b Caddick	68
(174min, 124 balls, 8 fours)	
S R Waugh b Malcolm	75
(182min, 102 balls, 18 fours)	
R T Ponting b Headley	9
(16min, 15 balls, 1 four)	
M A Healy c A J Hollis b Malcolm	18
(22min, 18 balls, 3 fours)	
S K Warner c Thorpe b Malcolm	0
(11min, 5 balls)	
P R Healy c Thorpe b Headley	26
(51min, 45 balls, 4 fours)	
J N Gillespie not out	18
(2min, 2 balls)	
G D McGrath b Headley	1
(10min, 6 balls)	
Extras (b 4, lb 0, w 1, nb 4)	19
Total (121.5 overs, 684min)	427
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-117 (Taylor 47), 2-180 (Blain 51), 3-225 (M E Waugh 24), 4-311 (S R Waugh 59), 5-325 (S R Waugh 43), 6-285 (S R Waugh 53), 7-363 (S R Waugh 51), 8-386 (Healy 9), 9-419 (Gillespie 18)	
BOWLING: Malcolm 25-4-100-3 (W 1: 15.6, 6-1-19.0, 2-0-4.0, 2-0-11.0, 3-0-15.0, 7-3-30.0; Headley 10-5-74-4 (W 3: 12.0, 7-3-10.0, 2-26.1, 5-1-17.0, 3-0-17.0, 6-3-9.1, 2-0-6.0); Caddick 11-1-17 (Taylor 47), 2-1-0 (Blain 51), 1-3-25 (M E Waugh 24), 4-3-11 (S R Waugh 59), 5-3-25 (S R Waugh 43), 6-2-85 (S R Waugh 53), 7-3-63 (S R Waugh 51), 8-3-86 (Healy 9), 9-4-19 (Gillespie 18)	
Umpires: C J Michie (South Africa) and D R Shepherd. Test umpire: A J Jones. Match referee: C W Smith (West Indies)	
SERIES DETAILS: First (Edgbaston): England won by nine wickets. Second (Lord's): match drawn. Third (Old Trafford): Australia won by 286 runs. Fourth (Headingley): Australia won by an innings and 61 runs. To come: fifth (The Oval): August 21-23	
Compiled by Bill Fendall	

Hampshire declare brave intentions

BY BARNEY SPENDER

LORD'S (third day of four): Middlesex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 227 runs ahead of Hampshire

LORD MACLAURIN's bold, new plan to stiffen the backbone of county cricket is all well and good, but there is one thing for which no legislation can account: entertainment. Some days are pure joy with intrigue, art and whimsy all woven into a bright and pleasing patchwork. Others are pretty grim; honest, sweaty days at the coalface.

Unfortunately, yesterday's play fell into the second category with the only real bright spot, and smattering of laughter, coming when the public announcer, wrong-footed by John Stephenson's tea-time declaration, announced not just the wrong bowler when play resumed but the wrong team in the field.

The crowd, who had watched the roller at work during the interval, certainly enjoyed the slip and it may be that those who come today will appreciate Stephenson's decision because, without it, this game would have petered out. As it is, both sides have a chance of winning.

Following after Mark Ramprakash's mighty efforts over the first two days was always going to have an element of "after the Lord Mayor's Show" about it but, on a pitch which appears to be getting lower and slower all the time, the Hampshire batsmen showed some gumption in

sticking to the principle task of avoiding the follow-on.

Simon Benschaw, the nightwatchman, edged Jamie Hewitt's fourth ball to Mike Gatting at first slip to give Middlesex some hope in the morning, but two balls later, Hewitt gave away the initiative by sending down a short ball, wide outside the off-stump. Not known to ignore such deliveries, Robin Smith promptly cut it for six over point to get off the mark.

Smith's batting has not quite lived up to expectations this year, with only one century and four fifties in the championship, and another bright start was snuffed out when Jacques Kallis, from the Nursery End, knocked his middle stump out.

Gavin Wright, however, played a solid anchor role, worth 62, before Owais Shah snapped up a good catch at short-leg, and there was a good, if uninspiring, partnership of exactly 100 between Matthew Keach, whose 78 not out against his old county came from 175 balls, and John Stephenson.

Stephenson, whose highest score in a difficult championship year is just 49, must have been sorely tempted to bat on. He had just swept Kevin Dutch, the off-spinner, for six into the grandstand, and was 48 not out. But, with the follow-on saved, he made the wise decision to declare 136 behind and give his batsmen a chance of chasing this afternoon.

Bowler and Alleyne let their bats do the talking

BY PAT GIBSON

TAUNTON (third day of four): Somerset, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 159 runs behind Gloucestershire

THERE has been no love lost between these West Country rivals in this match, but the captains, Peter Bowler and Mark Alleyne, will have to bury the hatchet to produce a result.

The pitch, at the centre of a bitter dispute between them before play began more than a day and a half later, flattened out into a benign batting surface under the scorching sun yesterday and since Alleyne won the right to play on it, the onus is on him to make the first overtures.

Whether Bowler will be in any mood to reciprocate remains to be seen. He was furious when Gloucestershire refused to play on the dry, worn strip used for Somerset's rain-ravaged game against the Australians because they did not fancy facing Mushtaq Ahmed on it.

He may have mellowed, however, after reaching 73, his highest championship score of the season, as Somerset reached a challenging 191 for three in reply to Gloucestershire's first-innings total of 350 for eight declared.

Earlier, Alleyne had also led from the front when Gloucestershire, resuming unscathed on 119 for four, feasted on some wayward Somerset bowling to pick up maximum batting

points and draw closer to Glamorgan, the championship leaders.

The dampness had gone from the pitch, but that was no excuse for the liberal supply of long hops and half-volleys which yielded 163 runs off 32 overs in the morning session. 102 of them in boundaries.

Alleyne could not quite match Shaun Young, the powerful Australian, who demonstrated again why Gloucestershire are agonising over whether to invite him back next season in place of the hugely respected Courtney Walsh.

Young made 83 off 79 balls, cluttering the feared Mushtaq over his head for six and bludgeoning 15 fours before getting himself out in the



Alleyne: led from front

dullest possible way. Treacothick, bowling medium pace, served up a long hop down the leg-side, Young swatted at it, got an edge and was caught by the rumbling Turner. It was Treacothick's first championship wicket.

The fifth wicket had produced 140 in 27 overs and Alleyne, the most prolific all-rounder in county cricket this season, went on to 70 off 123 balls with 11 fours before Shine had him caught behind as he drove at a wide half-volley.

Russell then made sure that Gloucestershire collected full points before Alleyne declared, but any thoughts that they might have had enough runs to embarrass Somerset were quickly dispelled. Smith gave them a glimmer of hope by claiming Holloway leg-before, but the Gloucestershire bowling was little better than Somerset's had been.

Ecclestone plundered 30 off 17 balls with six fours before Young had him leg-before and then Bowler and Lathwell, both finding their best form of the season, put on 133 in 36 overs.

Bowler completed only his fourth half-century of the season and had moved on to 73 off 153 balls with 13 fours when he hung out his bat to Lewis and was caught at second slip. Lathwell passed his first 50 since the beginning of June off 52 balls, including seven fours, and had reached 64 by the close.

Worcestershire in need of solutions

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Worcestershire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 367 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

IF THEY are to win this run-filled match, Worcestershire must solve the puzzle not only of where to find a spinner to bowl on a helpful pitch, but how to prevent their seamers from running down the middle of it.

A sun-baked surface assisted Michael Davies and Rob Bailey, the Northamptonshire slow bowlers, after tea, as Worcestershire built on a first-innings lead through Reuben Spiring's 84 and a half-century from Gavin Haynes.

With Richard Illingworth still to make his first appearance of the summer and Vikram Solanki suffering from a sore finger, they only have Tom Moody, an occasional off-spinner, to call upon today.

Worcestershire had already received early notice of the impending dilemma as Northamptonshire arrogantly saved the follow-on and promptly declared. Russell Warren making an unbeaten 174 from 344 balls including 28 fours and a six. He shared an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership of 114 in 20 overs with David Sales.

During the unexpected onslaught, which began with Northamptonshire in the relatively uncertain position of 230 for four, a third Worcestershire bowler, Philip Weston,

the left-arm medium-pace, was warned by umpire George Sharp about following through down the pitch. Alangir Sherryar and Gavin Haynes had been admonished the previous day by the other umpire, Barrie Leadbeater.

Whether this was gamesmanship to provide some rough for Moody to exploit while bowling on the final day or a genuine collective loss of rhythm by the Worcestershire attack was open to debate.

Moody's attempt to make a first-innings impact was firmly blocked, his 19 overs costing 67 runs. When declaration time comes, he will be far from generous, doubtless banishing the thought of scoring 551 and then losing to a side in the lower reaches of the table.

Four of Worcestershire's five wickets to fall in the second innings fell to spinners, with Davies, 21, a slow left-arm, taking three for 75. The Loughborough University student showed maturity beyond his years by varying his trajectory, fighting the ball and dismissing Moody when coming from around the wicket before outstaying Haynes after switching to over the wicket. He also had Spiring stumped.

John Blain, 18, also on his championship debut, dismissed Tim Curtis for the second time in the game, leaving the former Worcestershire captain to reflect on a lean aggregate of 79 runs in the past nine innings of his farewell season.

Run record inspires Sri Lanka

BY OUL SPORTS STAFF

AN upbeat Sri Lanka, fresh from scoring the highest total in Test cricket, start as favourites for the second game of the series against India at the Singalese Sports Club in Colombo today.

A psychologically battered India will face an uphill task against Sri Lanka, who demolished the Indian bowling earlier this week by amassing 952 for six on a lifeless wicket in the drawn first Test.

Sanath Jayasuriya, the opener, hit 340 and shared a world record partnership for any wicket in Test cricket of 576 with Roshan Mahanama who scored 225. India's misery was compounded by sterling knocks by Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain, and Aravinda de Silva, his deputy, as the Sri Lanka batsmen made the Indians toil for three full days in the field.

"We've had our ups and downs in cricket, but I think we have come back pretty well in the batting," said Ranatunga in somewhat of an understatement. "We are very competitive now, but we'll have to work hard at our bowling."

Unlike the R Premadasa Stadium, where the pitch proved to be a bowler's nightmare, the Singalese Sports Club wicket is expected to give them greater assistance with its extra bounce and movement.

Sri Lanka have brought in the left-arm fast-medium bowler, Sajeewa de Silva.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Spice Boys given the lie by pre-season schedule that leaves no time for enjoying the high life

Role models who are thriving on hard work and little play

We might have just had six weeks off but that has not stopped a lot of rubbish being talked about the so-called Spice Boys, a group of Liverpool players who, if you believe what you read, are more interested in the caravans and the high life than the football pitch. Naturally, I was included in this group.

It's nonsense, of course. The excuse for digging that old bone up this time was the fact that the gaffer, Roy Evans, called us together pre-season and went over the rules about missing games and being late.

These rules have always been in force. Every year at the start of the season he goes over them with us. This was nothing special and

the same thing goes on at most clubs.

The gaffer was very good about it and he tried to dismiss the whole business last week. He took the trouble to tell us that he thought we were one of the hardest-working groups of lads in the country. But no doubt we will hear this one or something like it again in the course of the season.

The fact is that we are busy that we rarely go out together and we don't have that much time for things apart from football. Jamie Redknapp and David James have done some modelling, but that was two years ago for goodness sake and it had absolutely no bearing on the way they played last season. Jamie gets more than his share of

criticism because he happens to go out with a woman who also happens to have a high-profile job. It's completely irrelevant.

These days we rarely get to go out as a group, anyway. I know that the old Liverpool players used to have regular club days out but the last time the whole of this team went out together was Christmas. I think several of us might get together for a game of golf but really we just can't do it nowadays. We get on well enough without having to do everything together.

MAKING HIS MARK

We start the season among the favourites for the Premiership.

McMANAMAN'S WORLD



That's not unusual but I can see good reasons for optimism this year. People have said that Paul, once he joined us in the summer from Internazionale, will be the final piece in the jigsaw.

That puts unfair pressure on Paul. If we win the league it won't be just because of Paul. If we lose, it won't be just because of him either.

But he is going to make a difference. It's been suggested that

we need a hard man but he is much more than that: an excellent all-round player who will improve the squad not just because he is aggressive, but because he is skilful, too.

And he is bringing new ideas to the club after two years playing in Italy. I've noticed he has his own views on training and eating and so on and he is trying to bring some of the good points to our set-up. I've noticed him talking to the

gaffer about the way things were done in Italy.

I think Karlheinz Riedle, who joined us from Borussia Dortmund last week, will do exactly the same. Football is changing. Foreigners and players returning from foreign clubs are bringing in new ideas throughout the Premiership.

Glenn Hoddle began to do it at Chelsea and now Ruud Geulit is picking up where he left off. Arsene Wenger is changing things at Arsenal. Everyone is learning.

SOUND EXPERIENCE

Among those who will learn is Michael Owen. He is 17 and he is going to be a very good player. The arrival of Karlheinz means he will not play as often as he might have done but I don't think that is a cause for concern.

I don't think the gaffer wants to play Michael in 50 games a season. He is too young to play day in, day out but there are bound to be opportunities for him. And it must help Michael's development to be around a player such as Karlheinz, whose experience is probably second to none at the club.

ON THE MOVE

So Chelsea have pulled off one last close-couster surprise by signing Graeme Le Saux. A very good deal for them. And it came in a deal conducted by mobile phone in the middle of the night as the player drove south. It just goes to show the nature of the player's life. Everything can change at any moment. As long as people can talk to each other, something can be thrashed out and you can be on your way. It's a 24-hour job.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

So here we go. We drove down yesterday for our match with Wimbledon at Selhurst Park this afternoon. If we are successful it should be the first of 15 or so matches for the club this season.

The more successful we are the more we will have to play. We all hope for a long haul and, at the end perhaps for some of us, the biggest challenge of our careers, the World Cup in France. It should be exhausting and rewarding. I can't wait to start.

STEVE McMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Final tables and statistics for last season	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF.	HOME					AWAY					FORM LAST 10 MATCHES	CURRENT STRIKE
				W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1. MANCHESTER UTD	38	75	+32	12	5	2	38	17	9	7	3	38	27	w5-d3-l2	w1
2. NEWCASTLE UTD	38	68	+33	13	3	3	54	20	6	8	5	19	20	w5-d5-l0	w1
3. ARSENAL	38	68	+30	10	5	4	36	18	9	6	4	26	14	w6-d2-l2	w
4. LIVERPOOL	38	68	+25	10	6	3	38	19	9	5	5	24	18	w4-d3-l3	d1
5. ASTON VILLA	38	61	+13	11	5	3	27	13	6	5	8	20	21	w4-d3-l3	w1
6. CHELSEA	38	59	+3	9	8	2	33	22	7	3	9	25	33	w5-d1-l4	w4
7. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	38	57	-1	8	10	1	25	16	6	5	8	25	35	w3-d3-l4	d1
8. WIMBLEDON	38	56	+3	9	6	4	28	21	6	5	8	21	25	w3-d3-l4	w2
9. LEICESTER CITY	38	47	-8	7	5	7	22	26	5	6	8	24	28	w2-d4-l4	w2
10. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	38	46	-7	8	4	7	19	17	5	3	11	25	34	w3-d2-l5	l2
11. LEEDS UTD	38	46	-10	7	7	5	15	13	4	6	9	13	25	w1-d7-l2	d4
12. DERBY COUNTY	38	46	-13	8	6	5	25	22	3	7	9	20	36	w4-d2-l4	l1
13. BLACKBURN ROVERS	38	42	-1	8	4	7	28	23	1	11	7	14	20	w2-d3-l5	l1
14. WEST HAM UTD	38	42	-9	7	6	6	27	25	3	6	10	12	23	w3-d5-l2	l1
15. EVERTON	38	42	-13	7	4	8	24	22	3	8	8	20	35	w2-d3-l5	l2
16. SOUTHAMPTON	38	41	-6	6	7	6	32	24	4	4	11	18	32	w4-d3-l3	l1
17. COVENTRY CITY	38	41	-16	4	8	7	19	23	5	6	8	19	31	w3-d4-l3	w1
18. SUNDERLAND	38	40	-18	7	6	6	20	18	3	4	12	15	35	w3-d2-l5	l1
19. MIDDLESBROUGH	38	39	-9	8	5	6	34	25	2	7	10	17	35	w3-d5-l2	d3
20. NOTTINGHAM FOREST	38	34	-28	3	9	7	15	27	3	7	9	16	32	w0-d7-l3	l1

Goals scored	Average
1. Manchester Utd 78	2.00
2. Newcastle 73	1.92
3. Arsenal 62	1.63
4. Liverpool 62	1.63
5. Chelsea 58	1.53
6. Middlesbrough 51	1.34
7. Sheffield Wed 50	1.32
8. Southampton 50	1.32
9. Wimbledon 49	1.29
10. Aston Villa 47	1.24
11. Leicester 46	1.21
12. Derby 45	1.18
13. Everton 44	1.16
14. Tottenham 44	1.16
15. Blackburn 42	1.11
16. West Ham 39	1.02
17. Coventry 38	1.00
18. Sunderland 36	0.92
19. Nottm Forest 31	0.82
20. Leeds Utd 28	0.74

Goals per half	1st	2nd
1. Arsenal 32	0.84	0.84
2. Aston Villa 34	0.89	0.89
3. Liverpool 37	0.97	0.97
4. Leeds Utd 38	1.00	1.00
5. Newcastle 40	1.05	1.05
6. Blackburn 43	1.13	1.13
7. Manchester Utd 44	1.16	1.16
8. Wimbledon 46	1.21	1.21
9. West Ham 48	1.26	1.26
10. Tottenham 51	1.34	1.34
11. Sheffield Wed 51	1.34	1.34
12. Sunderland 53	1.38	1.38
13. Chelsea 54	1.42	1.42
14. Leicester 54	1.42	1.42
15. Coventry 55	1.45	1.45
16. Southampton 56	1.47	1.47
17. Everton 57	1.50	1.50
18. Derby 58	1.58	1.58
19. Nottm Forest 59	1.55	1.55
20. Middlesbrough 60	1.58	1.58

Goals	1st	2nd
1. Arsenal 25	37	37
2. Aston Villa 18	29	29
3. Blackburn 22	20	20
4. Chelsea 30	28	28
5. Leicester 16	22	22
6. Derby 17	28	28
7. Everton 29	15	15
8. Leeds Utd 13	15	15
9. Leicester 20	28	28
10. Liverpool 29	33	33
11. Manchester Utd 31	45	45
12. Aston Villa 22	29	29
13. Newcastle 34	39	39
14. Nottm Forest 17	14	14
15. Chelsea 19	31	31
16. Southampton 22	28	28
17. Everton 15	20	20
18. Sheffield Wed 24	20	20
19. Sunderland 16	23	23
20. Wimbledon 22	27	27

Attendance	Average	% full
1. Manchester Utd 55,080	99	99
2. Liverpool 39,776	97	97
3. Arsenal 37,821	96	96
4. Newcastle 36,466	99	99
5. Everton 36,188	90	90
6. Aston Villa 36,027	92	92
7. Leeds Utd 32,117	80	80
8. Tottenham 31,067	94	94
9. Middlesbrough 29,871	98	98
10. Chelsea 27,616	87	87
11. Sheffield Wed 25,713	65	65
12. Blackburn 24,947	80	80
13. Nottm Forest 24,840	81	81
14. West Ham 23,242	89	89
15. Sunderland 20,974	93	93
16. Leicester 19,183	90	90
17. Coventry 19,808	83	83
18. Derby 17,888	99	99
19. Wimbledon 15,138	58	58
20. Southampton 15,104	99	99

Attendance	Average	% full
1. Manchester Utd 55,080	99	99
2. Liverpool 39,776	97	97
3. Arsenal 37,821	96	96
4. Newcastle 36,466	99	99
5. Everton 36,188	90	90
6. Aston Villa 36,027	92	92
7. Leeds Utd 32,117	80	80
8. Tottenham 31,067	94	94
9. Middlesbrough 29,871	98	98
10. Chelsea 27,616	87	87
11. Sheffield Wed 25,713	65	65
12. Blackburn 24,947	80	80
13. Nottm Forest 24,840	81	81
14. West Ham 23,242	89	89
15. Sunderland 20,974	93	93
16. Leicester 19,183	90	90
17. Coventry 19,808	83	83
18. Derby 17,888	99	99
19. Wimbledon 15,138	58	58
20. Southampton 15,104	99	99

Attendance	Average	% full
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2. Liverpool 39,776	97	97
3. Arsenal 37,821	96	96
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19. Wimbledon 15,138	58	58
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	Goals conceded	Average
1. Arsenal	32	0.84
2. Aston Villa	34	0.89
3. Liverpool	37	0.97
4. Leeds Utd	38	1.00
5. Newcastle	40	1.05
6. Blackburn	43	1.13
7. Manchester Utd	44	1.16
8. Wimbledon	46	1.21
9. West Ham	49	1.26
10. Tottenham	51	1.34
11. Sheffield Wed	51	1.34
12. Sunderland	53	1.39
13. Chelsea	54	1.42
14. Leicester	54	1.42
15. Coventry	55	1.45
16. Southampton	56	1.47
17. Everton	57	1.50
18. Derby	58	1.53
19. Nottm Forest	59	1.55
20. Middlesbrough	60	1.58

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Keane celebrates coming of age

The new Manchester United captain talks about how he plans to shed his bad-boy image for the mantle of responsibility at Old Trafford

The taxis had started arriving an hour earlier. They spilt out their cargoes of refugees from the school holidays in twos and threes outside the gates and wheeled around to head back into the city centre. By midday, the crowd in the car park at The Cliff, the Manchester United training ground, had swelled to about 200.

At the edge of the throng, a woman whose jet-black roots were invading her peroxide blonde hair, kicked a football to and fro with her small son. Everyone else, anaesthetised by the rays of the noon-day sun, clutched their autograph books and gazed at a small knot of players who were talking quietly by their cars.

There was a languor about the young men. Training was over and the heat was slowing them down. David Beckham had eased himself into his new Porsche and sat in it with the driver's door open, playing aimlessly with its gadgets. Ryan Giggs leant on the side of the next car, talking to his team-mate. Occasionally, the watchers could hear them laughing.

Roy Keane did not stop to talk as he marched past. He muttered something playfully derisive to Beckham about his numberplate and forged on towards the gym. The crowd surged towards him, half-heartedly for a moment but he darted past them and through some swing doors. They fell back and resumed the Giggs-watch.

Keane knows that he is not one of the boys any more. He still has his brooding good looks, of course, but he is past the heart-throb stage now, married with two young daughters. Something else marks him out, too. If Giggs and Beckham are obviously revelling in their youth, living fast lives in fast cars, Keane, who will celebrate his 26th birthday tomorrow by leading United out against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane to open their defence of the championship, is trying hard to grow up.

He has been given little option. Some time in the close season, without any fanfare or official announcement, Alex Ferguson, the United manager, sent the moral majority who like their footballers ano-

OLIVER HOLT



dyne and unimpeachable into paroxysms of indignation when he appointed Keane the successor to Eric Cantona and made him captain of the most successful club in England. "One wonders this time," one newspaper said, "if the United manager is not stretching credulity a bit too far."

The objections had little to do with Keane's ability. Since United signed him from Nottingham Forest for £3.75 million four years ago, he has been widely recognised as one of their outstanding players, their focus, their driving force, a box-to-box midfielder, whose unrelenting aggression, whose biting tackles and ceaseless running has made him respected by his peers and hated by opposing fans everywhere.

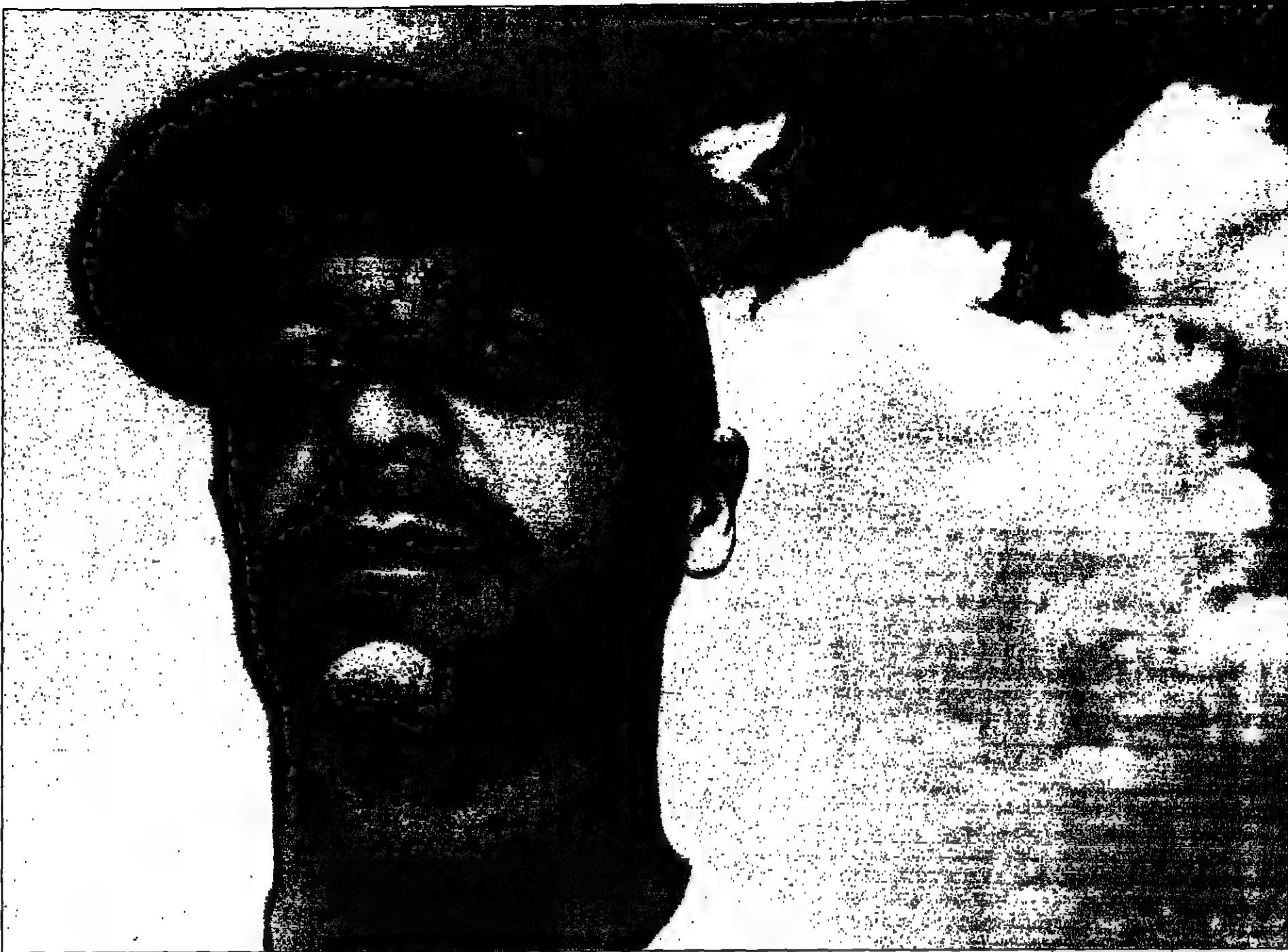
The problem was a disciplinary record and a snarling, snapping attitude that would have made Liam Gallagher wince. Near the top of the list was his sending-off for an atrocious foul on Gareth Southgate, the good son of English football, in the 1994 FA Cup semi-final against Crystal Palace. There have been a handful of minor off-the-field incidents, too.

He has become so unpopular at other grounds that the football magazine, *FourFourTwo*, played on his notoriety by making it one of its central planks of the pre-season preview this month. In a questionnaire sent to every FA Carling Premiership club, it asked fans "what are you going to sing when Roy Keane turns up?". Most said the answer was unprintable, another said "nothing, he'll probably be suspended".

Keane, himself, is largely unperturbed by all the bad-boy stuff and Diadora, the sportswear company with which he has recently signed a £2 million contract, has managed to use it to its advantage. Its latest advertisement, an image of Keane in full flow, his eyes painted red like a demon's, carries the slogan "We sold our soul to the devil".

After that kind of build-up and warnings that the young Irishman from Cork is surly and rude and answers questions in monosyllables, meeting him is like an epiphany, a happy revelation that this man who plays so sublimely and moves with such speed and stealth has a character and a sense of humour that is worth admiring, too.

He speaks not with the rasp or the snarl that his familiar on-pitch scowl might suggest,



The sky is the limit: Keane considers the opportunity afforded him by Ferguson, the United manager, to lead the club to further glory on the European and domestic fronts

but with a bewitching, soft southern Irish lilt, a gentle accent that smooths away his hard edges. His gaze is strong and steady, his eyes flicker with a benevolent sense of mischief and his words are full of candour and free of the bitterness that has crept into the souls of other footballers who have not suffered half the vilification that he has.

"I'm aware that now I'm captain people are waiting for me to get sent off so they can have a go," Keane said. "But that was the case last year anyway. That happens because you play for Manchester United. It will be worse now but I was going to try to change that side of my game anyway. Hopefully, as you get older, you calm down a little bit."

"I am not going to change my game just because I am captain, though. I am sure there will be bookings along the way and there will be people getting on my back for getting booked. I mean, players everywhere mislaid challenges and I will still get booked for that sort of thing but I have been planning to try to cut the silly bookings out for a while now."

"Then again, I have been saying that for the last seven or eight years and it has still not come right. Even when I

was at Forest, Brian Clough used to tell me I had to calm down but it is just part of my game. Hopefully, I won't be sent off as captain, but if I was a betting man, I wouldn't have much money on that."

"I was a bit wary about whether the gaffer would give me the captaincy because everyone was saying maybe I wouldn't be able to handle the responsibility with all the off-field stuff and all the worries about my temperament on the field. I wasn't expecting to be made captain, but then again I wasn't surprised either. I knew Fally (Gary Pallister) and Peter (Schmeichel) would be there or thereabouts but I was delighted when it was me."

Keane knows that his biggest task in a season when he will attempt to lead United to their fifth Premiership title in six seasons will be to try to cure his rank inability to turn the other cheek that extends from the pitch to the pub and



Keane is being marketed by Diadora as the player with the devil in his eyes

the nightclub. He trained as a boxer when he was growing up in Cork and playing his amateur football for Cobh Rangers and he is not afraid to defend himself against those who bait him.

"I have got a reputation for attracting trouble off the pitch," Keane said, "and I think that's fair. When I go out, I could be with 20 other players but someone always seems to have a go at me because they think I am the so-called hard man on the field and they want to see what I can do off it."

"The worst thing is that if people have a go at me, I usually have a go back because I don't want to put up with that. I don't think that's fair. I think I should be entitled to go for a few drinks if I want. If someone has a go at me, then nine times out of ten I'll say 'come on then' and have a go back."

"When I first came to Forest, I was only a young lad, I had

just come over to England. I had a few quid and there were nightclubs about. That is where I would get in trouble, not in pubs but in clubs where everyone has had a bit too much to drink and you are queuing up for taxis at two or three o'clock in the morning."

"I had a few good years of that but in the last year or two I have definitely settled down. I really only go local now, to the pub where people know me and don't give me hassle. People talk about my wild days at Forest but it was only two or three incidents over five years."

Beckham and Giggs, perhaps, have got all that to come but, although Keane refuses to make any promises and laughs at the fact of troubles to come, even he seems to sense that the captaincy could help him to turn the corner. "People give me a bad name," he said, "and I've got one, but things are changing for me now."

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FOUR HOME WINS, A HOME WIN, A DRAW, AN AWAY THREE POINT WIN			
11-9 Barnley	11-5 West Ham	13-8	
8-11 Blackburn	9-4 Derby	10-3	
2-1 Coventry	9-4 Chelsea	11-10	
8-11 Everton	9-4 Crystal Pal.	10-3	
10-11 Leeds	2-1 Arsenal	6-4	
5-1 Leicester	2-4 Aston Villa	5-4	
4-7 Newcastle	12-5 Sheff. Wed.	9-2	
11-10 Southampton	9-4 Bolton	2-1	
2-1 Tottenham	2-4 Man. Utd.	5-4	
2-1 Wimbledon	9-4 Liverpool	11-10	
4-5 Birmingham	9-4 Stoke	3-1	
8-11 Bradford	9-4 Stockport	9-4	
10-11 Bury	9-4 Reading	6-5	
8-11 Man. City	9-4 Portsmouth	10-3	
1-2 Middlesbrough	12-5 Charlton	11-2	
11-8 Norwich	11-5 Wolves	13-8	
11-8 Oxford	9-4 Huddersfield	9-4	
13-8 Port Vale	11-5 Nott'm. Forest	11-4	
5-6 Q.P.R.	9-4 Ipswich	11-4	
11-8 Sheff. Utd.	11-5 Sunderland	13-8	
10-11 Swindon	9-4 Crewe	5-2	
11-8 Wals. Brom.	9-4 Tranmere	9-4	
11-8 Blackpool	11-5 Brentford	7-4	
11-10 Gillingham	9-4 Bristol City	2-1	
5-4 Millwall	9-4 Brentford	7-4	
11-10 Watford	9-4 Burnley	2-1	
5-4 Gr. Morton	12-5 Airdrie	12-8	

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Gallen hoping to benefit from seasonal variation

By Russell Kempson

KEVIN GALLEN, the Queens Park Rangers striker, had been looking forward to the 1996-97 season. It was a chance to enhance his reputation, add to his England honours at youth and under-21 level and perhaps attract the interest of the FA Carling Premiership hawks.

It started well, with three goals in his first two league matches, but suddenly went awry. In the act of scoring his third, in the 2-1 victory against Portsmouth at Fratton Park, Gallen stretched bravely at the near post and was clipped on the right knee. His cruciate ligament tore; end of season.

Almost a year later — a year of pain, frustration and frequent desolation — he is ready to make his comeback, possibly when QPR play Ipswich Town at Loftus Road this afternoon. The Nationwide League first division awaits him with interest.

"If I'm selected, and hopefully I will be, it'll be a big day," Gallen said. "I just hope it all comes back to me when I get out on to the pitch. I hope I haven't forgotten what to do."

"We've got a lot of options up front, with Trevor Sinclair, John Spencer and now Mike Sheron as well as myself, so I know it's not going to be easy to get in the side. If I get picked, I'd obviously like to stay in the whole time."

"Things have gone well in pre-season. I'm getting stronger with every match and I'm delighted with the way it's gone. I just need that first

competitive game to see how it goes."

Gallen, 21, has scored six goals during QPR's build-up and Stewart Houston, the manager, is cautiously optimistic that one of the league's brightest young talents is fully rehabilitated. "He's done well but the next step is a big one," he said. "We'll have to wait and see what happens."

QPR should mount a challenge for the first division title — in the Football League's



99th season — but have been strangely ignored by most pundits. Not surprisingly, Middlesbrough, Manchester City, Nottingham Forest and Wolverhampton Wanderers have attracted most of the attention.

Mark McGhee, the Wolves manager, strengthened his hand yesterday by completing the signing of Mikko Paatelainen, the Bolton Wanderers striker, for £200,000. If he recovers from flu, Paatelainen, 30, the Finland international, will be included in the squad to play Norwich City at Carrow Road.

Gallen said: "Nobody's tipped us at all, which could work in our favour. I can see why everyone's going for

Boro, because of the money they've spent and the good players they've got, but they might find this division a lot harder than they think — a bit like when we came down last season. They could be in for a shock."

Middlesbrough, minus Juninho yet still with Fabrizio "I never wanted to leave" Ravanelli, open their campaign against Charlton Athletic at the Riverside Stadium. Paul Merson, a £5 million purchase from Arsenal, will make his debut, but David Platt, his former Highbury team-mate, will not be alongside him.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough player-manager, spoke with Platt again yesterday about a possible £2 million move and has told the former England captain to think it over. "Nothing will happen until next week," Robson said. "I've not yet discussed personal terms with David. He has a few things to sort out and we decided not to rush it. We felt it would be better to get the weekend over and then talk."

Sammy McIlroy, the Macclesfield Town manager, is unlikely to vie with Robson — the Cheshire club's budget would barely stretch to Platt's pocket money — but the Moss Rose should be filled to near capacity today when the league's newest members take on Torquay United in the third division. At 14-1 for the title, they look a tempting each-way bet.

FA imposes heavy fine for poor behaviour

By Russell Kempson

MIDDLESBROUGH have been fined £25,000 by the Football Association for their poor disciplinary record last season, when they were relegated from the FA Carling Premiership. The suspended fine was activated yesterday after Middlesbrough failed to improve their behaviour.

Middlesbrough also has another suspended fine of £50,000 hanging over it, which will be reviewed at the end of the new season. Middlesbrough had three men sent off and 77 cautions.

Gillingham, the second division club, have had a £10,000 suspended fine activated and face paying another £20,000 while Norwich City has received a £30,000 suspended fine. Portsmouth have had half of their £10,000 suspended fine activated after their record last season improved.

Niall Quinn, Keith Brannigan, Alan Moore, Keith O'Neill, Denis Irwin and Phil Babb have been recalled to the Ireland squad for the World Cup group eight qualifying game against Lithuania in Dublin on August 20. Jason McAteer, the Liverpool defender, is suspended.

IRELAND SQUAD: S. Owen (Manchester United), K. Brannigan (Bolton Wanderers), J. Keane (Blackburn Rovers), D. Irwin (Manchester United), S. Stanton (Aston Villa), K. Cunningham (Middlesbrough), H. Harte (Leeds United), D. Brown (Coventry City), C. Fleming (Middlesbrough), T. Pienaar (Swindon), P. Babb (Liverpool), A. Houghton (Reading), A. Moore (Manchester United), A. Townsend (Aston Villa), A. McLoughlin (Portsmouth), M. Kennedy (Liverpool), A. Moore (Middlesbrough), D. Connolly (Preston), K. O'Neill (Norwich City), A. Carrivick (Preston), N. Quinn (Sunderland), D. Kelly (Tranmere Rovers).

Stone rolls back to centre stage

By Richard Hobson

THE freak accident suffered by Alan Shearer last month served to demonstrate just how fragile is the human body. Steve Stone required no reminder. Almost a year has passed since he underwent surgery on a ruptured patella tendon, but the manner of the injury that threatened his career remains as maddeningly bizarre even today.

Stone was playing for Nottingham Forest against Leicester City in September when he moved to accept a routine pass on the right flank in his own half. His heel slipped, his bodyweight turned over the knee and left him in a heap by the touchline. "A lot of people in the stand and even some of the players thought I was fooling around," Stone recalled.

Laughter dissipated quickly. Stone is an effervescent character by nature, an easy-going, down-to-earth soul, but the ensuing months have tested his inclination to laugh. He is smiling again now, his recovery almost complete, and the City Ground is a cheerier place for it.

Setting a date for his return in a league fixture was always precarious. A second operation in January to remove the wire that held together his reconstructed knee was delayed by three weeks and, as recently as April, after minor complications, he wondered whether he would be able to play before October.

It is a fear now long forgotten. He joined Forest on a pre-

season tour in Finland and played for the final half-hour in a game against Leeds United last Saturday. Three days later, he lasted 55 minutes of the Nottinghamshire County Cup final against Notts County. He remains a short of match practice, but could feature at some stage when Forest begin their attempt to return to the FA Carling Premiership against Port Vale today.

He would also like to figure in the World Cup finals next year, should England qualify. His international career began so promisingly in an otherwise dull goalless draw against Norway in Oslo, where he came on as a substitute, and he scored on each of his first two starting appearances, but he knows it will be hard for him to recover his place while he is playing outside the Premiership. A three-year extension to his present contract remains unsigned, although he says that he has no desire to leave Forest.

The club's decline last season made his absence even more frustrating. Embroiled in a protracted takeover that alienated supporters, they were unable to sign the players they clearly required to ensure survival until their miserable fate had been effectively decided.

Yet Stone remains optimistic, with good reason. After all, he broke his leg three times as a teenager when even a debut seemed light years away. He has not done too badly since.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

After 110 years, Barnsley are in the big time at last. Mark Hodgkinson begins a weekly series on their first season in the FA Carling Premiership

The sun is shining on Barnsley. Liam Gallagher's familiar brick dust and glue white beards from a record shop. Young girls — 14 and a cousin — gather at the entrance to the market precinct. In Peel Square, the Tommy Wallocks pub has a loose assembly of lunch-time drinkers resting against its portal.

This heat. It is all they talk about. "But it's too humid, isn't it? Not like you get abroad," says one old boy to another, his canvas shopping bag by his feet as he sits on a bench outside Marks & Spencer. The world ambles by: all loose-limbed and languid.

At first, the crowd of shoppers is a blur. There is then a trickle of recognition, like a familiar face spotted in a group photograph. One red shirt passes, then, a few seconds later, another. On each is the white rose of Yorkshire and the unusual word, *Ora*. These are the shirts of Barnsley FC (Ora is the club's main sponsor), and it could be a trick of the imagination, but the wearers seem to have a spring in their step, a smile on their face.

Barnsley FC, after 110 years, have finally reached the highest strain of English football. At 3pm today they will play West Ham United at their Oakwell ground in the FA Carling Premiership. It will

Town squints in history's glare

LIFE AT THE TOP



Signs of the times: all roads lead to Oakwell. Photographs: John Angerson

be an all-singing, all-dancing occasion with more than an hour's worth of pre-match entertainment: plenty of time for the *Match of the Day* cameras to linger on a rear view, a face painted. When a club has waited this long — precisely 5,714 weeks — it is clearly not going to be one of those restrained, nervy affairs where no one dare start the first dance.

Overstatement is a journalist's accoutrement, but we are fast running out of words to relate the magnitude of their achievement. A heavy snowstorm is a white hell, every car crash horrific; so the impassioned response to Barnsley's success is said to be at "fever pitch". It is actually beyond this. It is at the cold bucket of water and a nurse-on-standby-stage.

At the beginning of last season, Barnsley had 2,500 season-ticket holders. It now has 16,500. The club sold eight times as many replica shirts during the first weekend they went on sale than in the whole of last season. Some fans even camped overnight outside the club shop (sorry, Reds Superstore)

so they could be the first on Barnsley's streets in the new shirts. Cynics have predicted that the fervour will be short-lived. Such a suggestion is an anathema in the town, a load of Tommy Wallocks, so to speak.

The media interest is phenomenal. It sees a parable. David and

Goliath, and romance, and a certain sentimentality. Danny Wilson, Barnsley's manager, has tried to remain stoic amid the clamour. This is a man who, as a player, turned out for eight different clubs in nearly 500 league matches. He wants to hear the crunch of shipwreck, see shirts drenched in

sweat. In short, he wants the hubbub to subside. Barnsley is enjoying the attention, though a certain wariness and scepticism prevails. They feel a media that has come in search of romance had previously shown apathy, or worse, suggested that the fauna was solely whipped, ferret or pigeon and the flora non-existent, apart from the odd weed among the obelisks.

It is, in fact, typically provincial England, an Anytown UK. It has dual carriageways and industrial estates, car parks and Kwik-Fits. Beyond the housing estates there is magnificent open countryside stretching to Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester.

Aside from the sporting communion, the heart of the town has beat much the same as it ever did

during the summer of 1947. It was the last summer for the actor, Brian Glover, an ex-pupil of Barnsley Grammar School, and also for Stan Bradder, a 74-year-old former miner. Stan died in a chair at his home and before his body was discovered, thieves broke in and stole some of his possessions. The following night, they repeated the robbery, ripping open his mattress looking for money. There is evil in every Anytown UK, sometimes to the power of two.

The news pages of *The Barnsley Chronicle* have also related the absurd. In June, the town was swamped by the smell of rotten eggs. Environmental Health staff found high levels of sulphur dioxide in the air and averred that it had blown over from Doncaster. Yorkshire towns are fond of the odd spate, be it over sport or effluvia.

Cameras, microphones, and notebooks will today sweep through Oakwell but by Monday, the weekend's newspapers will have faded in the sun and Barnsley, a nation's beloved underdog, will start to feel like septa-lined news. Thereafter, the poetry will give way to the mud, blood, sweat and slog of a season in professional football. Danny Wilson is ready. Barnsley is ready, a season awaits.

Market forces out emerging talent all over Europe

Make sense of the market — if you can. Liverpool sell the struggling Stan Collymore for £7 million, and pick up Karlheinz Riedle, one of the game's great strikers, for £1.6 million, a deal that jeopardises the chances of one of the finest young prospects England has had for years: Michael Owen, the 17-year-old Liverpool-born striker. Doomed, perhaps, to become a prophet without honour in his own city.

Juventus, last summer, having just won the European Cup, transferred both their formidable strikers to England. Fabrizio Ravanelli goes and stays down with the ship at Middlesbrough, largely because no one is prepared to pay £7 million for

equivalent of the one which hung on the walls of pre-war Hollywood studios: "It is not enough to be a Hungarian, you must have talent."

Too many foreigners? Cesare Maldini, Italy's manager father of Paolo, thinks so. He is worried by the lack of opportunity for rising Italian midfield players. In England, Gordon Taylor of the Professional Footballers' Association has expressed the same fears.

Howard Wilkinson, the new supreme of English coaching, went to Malaysia for the recent world under-20 tournament, deplored our alleged deficiencies in technique, and has imposed a system of centres of alleged excellence, run by our clubs.

But who says that they are excellent? And who says that we are really falling so far behind the rest? A fine young Ireland team, almost wholly made up of players with English clubs, took third place in the Malaysian tournament.

Wilkinson arrived at Lancaster Gate after disastrous days at Leeds United, whom he left with a legacy of disappointing players. Surely he knows that good youth coaches are thin on the ground. Why should he assume that any club has got them? As for the idea of coaching five-year-olds, leave them alone! Give them at least a few years to enjoy their football.

This week, Rudi Gullit, a great player and a successful Chelsea manager, talked of foreign footballers and the related problems. English players, he insisted, as many do, were simply too expensive — he gave Le Saxx at £7.5 million as a salient example.

Now, he has signed him for £5 million when he already has two younger left backs in Babayaro, the 18-year-old Nigerian, and Granville, an excellent prospect who he signed from Cambridge United. English players could become attractive propositions again when those over 24 acquire freedom of contract.

But why, when asked, had he signed the Holland goalkeeper De Geoy for £2.5 million? De Geoy, after all, has scarcely, so far, looked inspiring. It was, Gullit said, a great opportunity.

Then there is Tore Andre Flo who scored a first-half hat-trick in a pre-season game against Stevenage Borough last Monday, all of them with those clever feet, despite his size. What happens to him, given the presence of Zola, Hughes and Vialli? Acquiring the Uruguayan midfielder Poyet has so far meant pushing Di Matteo out to the left, where he does not look happy.

"I'm happy to have quality players," Gullit said. "Everybody says, now you will have a headache, but I'm happy to have the headache. How many coaches would like to have the headaches? Sometime, somewhere, our clubs must strike a balance. But who knows when?"

BRIAN GLANVILLE



him. As for that colossus of the Italian game, Gianluca Vialli, no one is prepared to take him, either, given his £20,000-a-week salary. So one of football's heroes, dear to his fellow players, will again be obliged to warm the Chelsea bench.

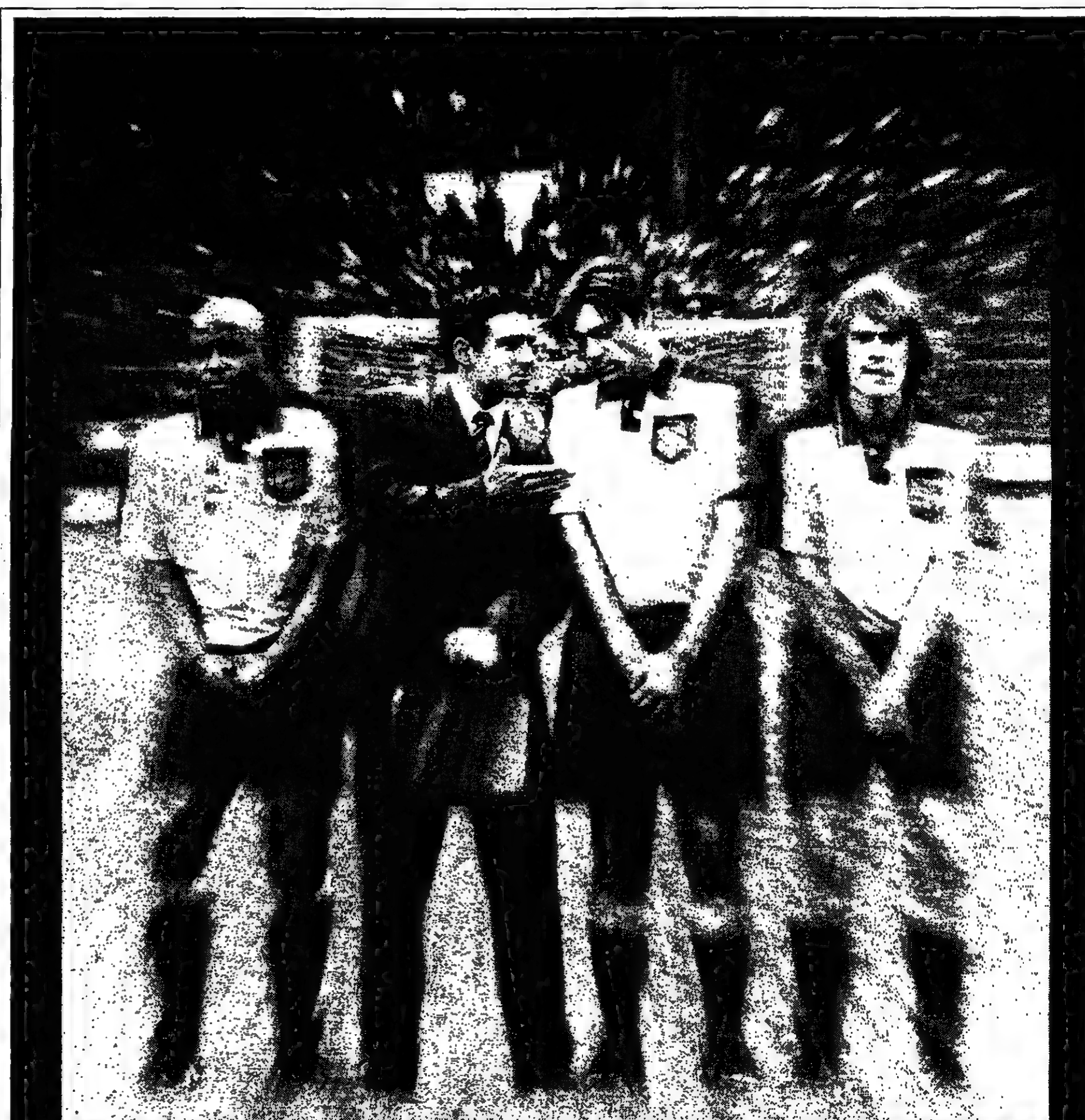
The Bosman verdict is behind it all; and Jean-Marc Bosman himself is emphatically behind the eight ball. Impoverished, inactive, ignored by the players he made rich, he evokes the famous words of the boxer, Brian London: "I'm just a pawn in their hands."

Used to gain not only freedom of contract for European Union players moving from one country to another but — something quite alien to his own predicament — to ensure that any EU club can not only sign but deploy as many EU players as it likes.

The late Artemio Franchi, Italy's resilient Uefa president, fought such developments for years with no real weapon. EU rules were plain. EU workers, footballers among them, could work — or play — wherever they liked.

AC Milan, this season, will have room in their team for only three or four Italians. And to think that, in the Fifties, people worried that the three great Swedes, Grea, Nordahl and Liedholm, were keeping out Italian players at Milan.

Now Arsenal might well hang up the notice, "Tel on parole français". And in the dressing-room, the French



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MOTOR RACING 41

Coulthard ready to drive a hard bargain at McLaren

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SATURDAY AUGUST 9 1997

CRICKET 42-43

Warne spins wheel of fortune back towards Australia



Le Saux lured back to Stamford Bridge on eve of big kick-off

Chelsea have the last word as the time for talk passes

By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

CHelsea yesterday beat out one final warning to the rest of the FA Carling Premiership when they emphasised their dramatic change in fortunes by breaking their transfer record on the eve of the new season to buy back a player who was once so desperate to leave the club that he said he would have "parachuted out of a snuke's backside" to get away.

Four years ago, when Graeme Le Saux got his wish and left Stamford Bridge for Blackburn Rovers for £60,000, Chelsea seemed to be marooned in no-man's land. Yesterday, though, the England defender was back at the club's training ground on the edge of west London, marvelling at how much things had changed and enthusing at the prospect of working with Ruud Gullit and his foreign legion.

A player who makes no secret of his fierce ambition, Le Saux said he had joined Chelsea because he felt Gullit had built a squad capable of challenging for the championship this season and the £5 million that the club spent to prise him away from Ewood Park was a clear statement of intent to the rest of England's top clubs.

As Gianfranco Zola peeped impudently through the glass doors where Le Saux was being presented to the media, patently delighted that another top-class player had arrived to augment a burgeoning squad, the Channel Islander, 28, who has become a fixture on the left side of England's midfield, said he had only had to "dust off the cobwebs in my

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mind" to find his way back to the training ground.

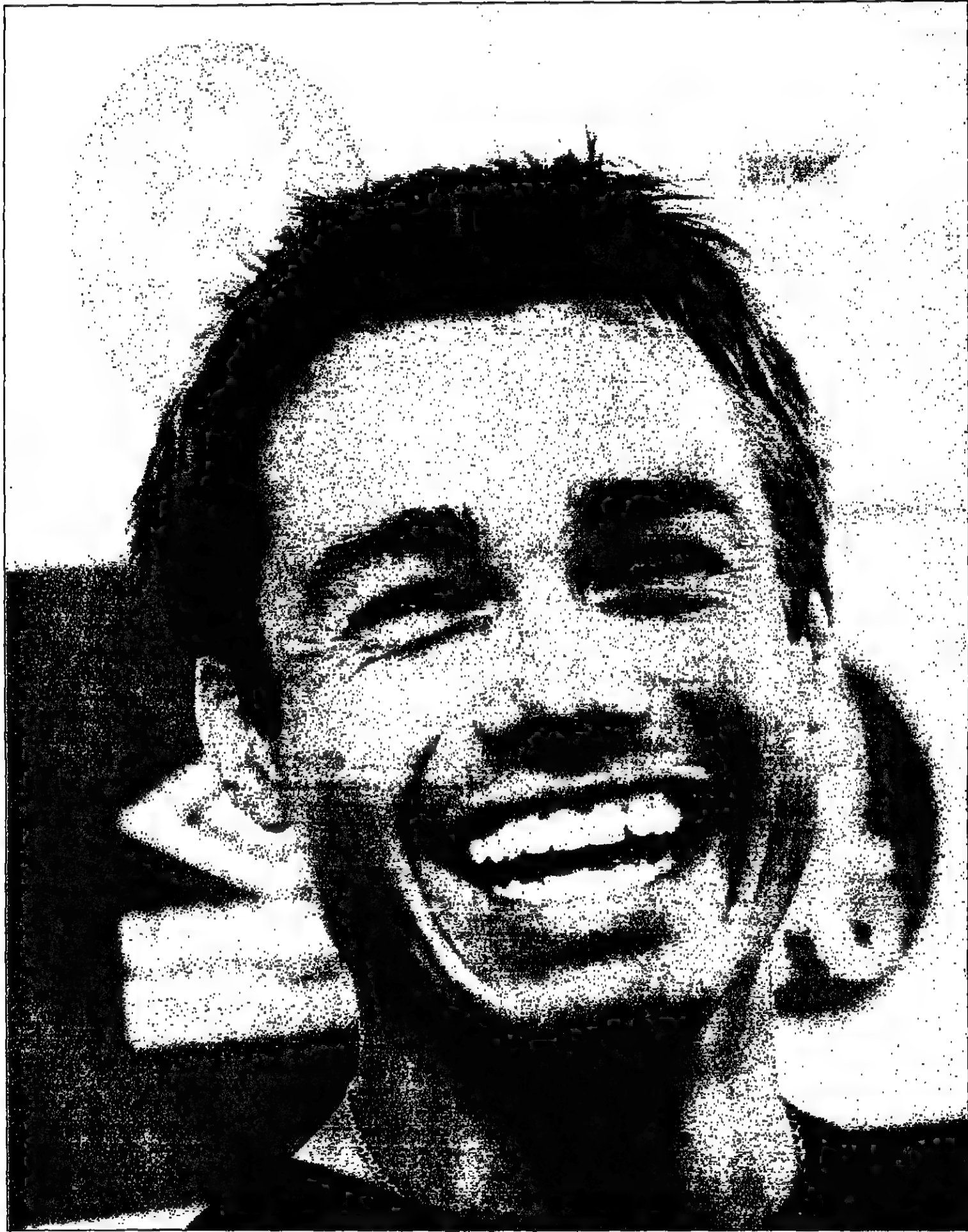
"It has all happened very quickly," Le Saux, who spent five and a half years at Chelsea in his first spell, said. "In the time I have been away from Chelsea, so much has changed and I have changed for the better, too. I am a better player now."

"I don't regret saying the thing about the parachute. Time changes things and circumstances change. I have got ambitions and I feel the move to Chelsea fulfils those ambitions. When I was here before, that was not the case."

Le Saux was so besieged by camera crews, photographers and journalists that he was given an ironic but good-humoured round of applause by his new teammates when he finally dashed out on to the training pitch to begin preparations for the match against Coventry City at Highfield Road in which he may begin to add to his record of 90 appearances in Chelsea colours.

That likelihood increased later yesterday when it was revealed that Celestine Babayaro, the Nigerian left wing-back signed for £2.5 million from Anderlecht during the summer, had suffered a stress fracture of the tibia when he executed a celebratory somersault during Chelsea reserves' 3-0 win against Stevenage earlier this week. He is likely to be out of action for at least six weeks.

"It is not true that Le Saux and Babayaro play in the same position anyway," Gullit, the coach, said. "Babayaro can play on the left side of midfield, which would give us another option. There are no players who will play all the games because



London calling: Le Saux is all smiles as he meets the media after agreeing to return to Chelsea in a £5 million move from Blackburn

there are bound to be injuries and we have such a talented squad."

"Le Saux's experience will be very useful for us. It is crucial that we keep our momentum going after winning the FA Cup last season and if the standard goes up with the arrival of players like him, it will keep the rest of them on their toes."

Gullit said that the path to the transfer had been smoothed because the £7 million price Blackburn

placed on Le Saux had frightened off potential rivals. Arsenal included. Colin Hutchinson, the Chelsea managing director, who admitted that Chelsea had made an expensive mistake when they sold Le Saux in March 1993, said the deal had been a true product of the high-tech age.

Negotiations had begun on Wednesday but Le Saux was only informed that agreement over a fee had been reached when he got home

from training on Thursday evening. He then began the drive to London, talking to Hutchinson and Gullit about personal terms on his mobile phone as he went.

By the time he arrived in west London at 11.30pm, the deal had been done and the contract was ready to sign. He drove into Hammersmith for a medical at Charing Cross Hospital, where particular attention was paid to the ankle he broke two

years ago, then back out to a hotel near Heathrow Airport where he signed the four-year deal in the early hours of yesterday morning.

"You have not even seen some of my new signings like Babayaro and Lambourde yet," Gullit said as the press conference ended yesterday. "Things are only going to get better here." His words will be ringing in the ears of the rest of the Premiership as they prepare for the big kick-off.

Edwards fails to replenish gold reserves

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN ATHENS

UNLESS there is a huge surprise over the weekend, Great Britain will complete the world championships here without a gold medal after Jonathan Edwards failed to retain his triple jump title yesterday. Edwards had to settle for silver as had Denise Lewis, in the heptathlon. Steve Backley, in the javelin and Colin Jackson, in the 100 metres hurdles.

Edwards's performance at the last world championships, in Gothenburg in 1995, made him the International Amateur Athletics Federation male athlete of the year. On that occasion he set two world records on his way to victory but here he was unable to recapture his best form, just as he had at the Atlanta Olympic games last year, when he was second to Kenny Harrison, of the United States.

This time Harrison failed to qualify for the final three of six jumps but a new champion emerged. Yoelvis Quesada, from Cuba, Quesada produced his winning leap of 17.85 metres, 44 centimetres short of Edwards's world record. In the second round, Edwards leapt 17.69 metres with his final jump.

"I have no idea really what went wrong," Edwards said. "I was aware of the expectation but that is not extra pressure, it is greater motivation. I realised the importance for British athletics as a whole. It [the pressure] was in no way negative."

Edwards had not jumped in competition for six weeks as he nursed a heel injury, but did not offer this as an excuse. "The heel was fine," Edwards said. "It did not stop me jumping at all. I guess if I knew what I was doing differently, I would put it right."

Britain has now won 19 silver medals in global championships since its last gold. If there is even a small chance of a victory this weekend, it must be in the men's 4 x 400 metres relay. However, the United States, with Michael Johnson, begin as firm favourites.

It was, perhaps, asking too much to expect Edwards to come here and win without any competitive preparation. Prior to Gothenburg, he had exceeded 18 metres four times.

THE FOOTBALL SEASON STARTS HERE



ROY KEANE AND THE RED DEVILS
Oliver Holt meets Manchester United's new captain

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MATCH BY MATCH GUIDE TO THE TOP GAMES

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Why I'm in a lather over Teddy's new role

Actors are not permitted to swap soaps, so why should footballers be allowed to change clubs?

I blame the chemistry of the brain, myself. Somehow, the male brain has generally evolved to remember everything that ever happened in sport, while the female brain remembers everything that ever happened in EastEnders. But I'm sure the brain bits are the same. Men and women think they are worlds apart, but we're not really. It's just that sports fans remember who did what, and when (which is boring). Soap followers remember who did what, and why (which is interesting).

Yet, in terms of audience appeal, sport and soap actually have much in common. Character is supremely important in both. For example, if football were a real soap opera, Gianfranco Zola would be the lovable, talented one who never gets a girlfriend, while Andy Cole's scary nightclub would employ David Batty with knuckle-dusters on the door. You see?

Alan Shearer would be Unlucky Al (always injuring himself, heart-on-sleeve Martin

O'Neill would be crossed in love (jubilation and tears, by turns). Meanwhile, at the sight of Nasty Mister Ferguson prowling in his overcoat, children would squeal and run indoors (No change there).

This soap opera model is what (for me, anyway) makes Teddy Sheringham's transfer to Manchester United a cause of serious vertigo — as if someone from Brookside had turned up in The Archers. How can we accept Sheringham in his new role? It's absurd. It blows the world apart. Because it's worse than just a turncoat change of allegiance. Last Sunday, at the Charity Shield, not only was Sheringham wearing an alien shirt, but it was quite clear his character had been radically rewritten.

"OK, so you are now a dynamic player, permanently in the thick of things," they told him. "You run a lot, sometimes with the ball." Well, what a bombshell. No one had mentioned this when Sheringham signed the deal. "But I am Steady Teddy," he objected.



with his hair sticking up all wail-like, and the veins standing proud on his neck. "Slow, but intelligent. Stealthy. My great trick is to score goals just when everyone thinks I've gone home."

But they looked unimpressed, so Teddy went on. "I am the sort of chap who, to borrow a line from Dr Johnson, possesses no minute-

hand, but strikes the hour very correctly." "Well, not any more, cuckoo-clock-boy," they said. "Get tick-tick-ticking." And so that was that. Teddy turned, and wordlessly left the room. "But keep the Ferrari," they called after him. "Nice touch."

Will Teddy forget his former training and become a crowd-pleaser? He needn't worry about filling Cantona's shoes because it turns out that in football (just like soap opera) written-out characters are simply never heard of again.

Red No 7 shirts with "DIEU" spelt on them already look silly, and will soon be cut up for dusters. When children turn up their collars, Eric-fashions, they'll be asked "What on earth are you doing that for?" No, Sheringham won't be on nerve tablets about filling Cantona's place. After all, at Tottenham he replaced the sainted Gary. If no one likes him, he doesn't care.

But on the other hand, if Alex Ferguson lives to regret his choice, a lot of people will be awfully cheered up. Ha ha ha. Ferguson always looks like a man who's lost a stilling and found a French one with a hole in it — now he's lost Eric Cantona and found Teddy Sheringham! Tee hee. If this were a real telly soap opera, the audience would be gleefully rubbing its hands already.

Johnnie Walker



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☒ Lollo Biondo Lettuce - Mr Warrington, Luton



☒ Paw Paw - Mr Singh, Bradford



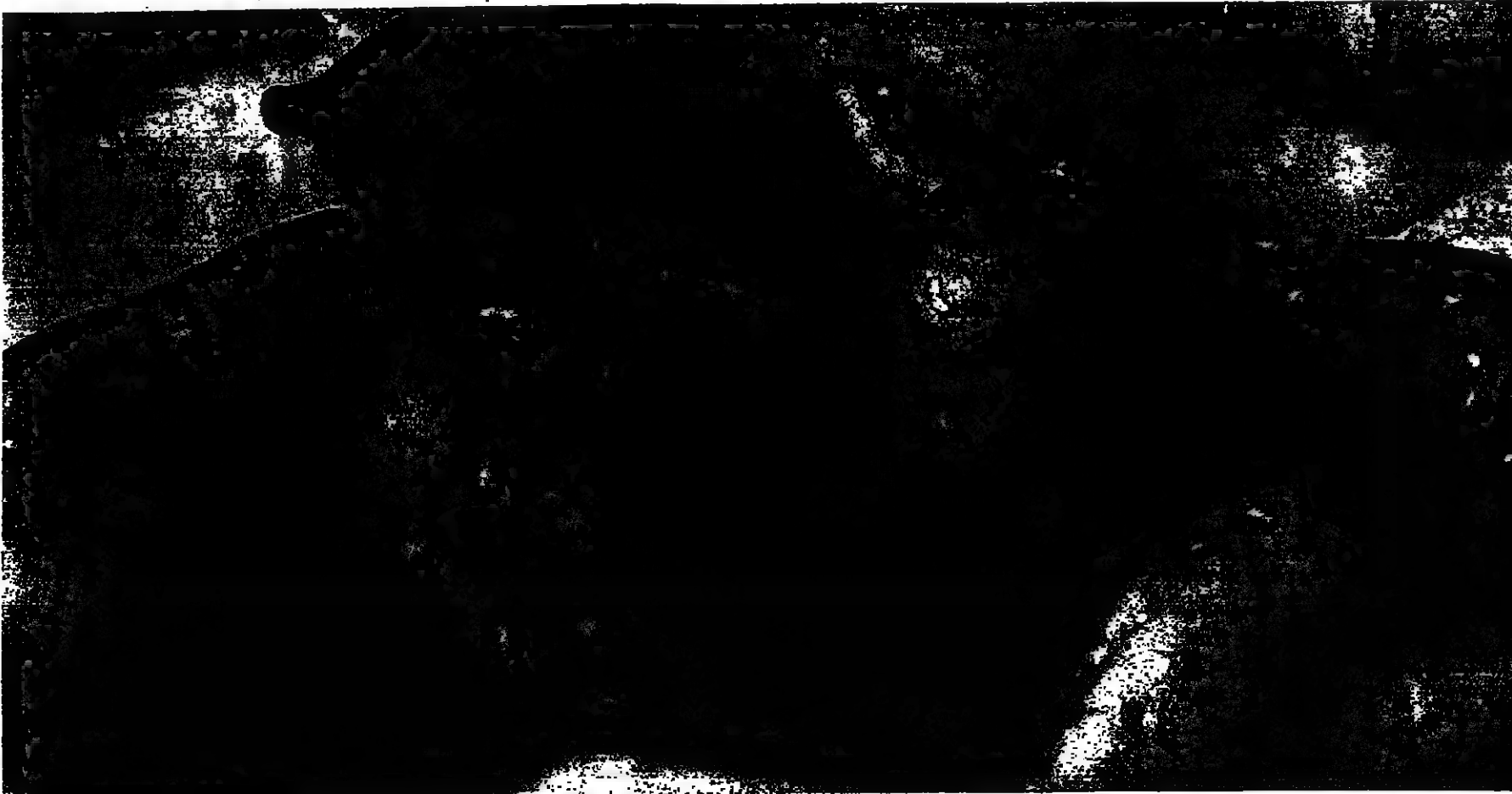
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☒ Focaccia Bread - Mr Hammond, Chislehurst



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Mir captain faces bumpy return to Earth

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

VASILY TSIBLIYEV, the outgoing commander of the crippled Russian space station Mir, faces heavy criticism when he returns home next week amid charges that he twice nearly destroyed Russia's space station.

While the 43-year-old space veteran's six months of gruelling service should be coming to an end, many predict his ordeal may only be starting.

Mr Tsibliyev took command of Mir in February, just after it suffered the worst fire in space history. Over the next weeks Mir suffered a leaking cooling system, falling oxygen generators, and the breakdown of the carbon dioxide removal system.

Nevertheless, the setbacks were nothing compared with the accident on June 25 when Mr Tsibliyev attempted the manual docking of a Progress supply ship, which crashed into Mir's Spektr module, causing the loss of half the station's power.

When it was decided to go ahead with a risky operation to repair the damage and reconnect the energy supply, the luckless cosmonaut developed a "stress-related heart condition" which forced mission control to send up a replacement crew to carry out the work.

While no one could deny his run of bad luck, his superiors at the Korolyov control centre



Tsibliyev: Mir plagued by series of disasters

in Moscow are clearly running out of patience.

"We have been hearing complaints of the workload being too heavy ever since his first day in flight," complained Viktor Blagov, the deputy mission chief. "Maybe it is just personal and he can't work as fast as we urge him to ... Maybe we just want too much from him."

There is still debate about a second incident on July 17. However, the Russian press is convinced that the unidentified "crew member", who accidentally unplugged the computer cable which left the spacecraft adrift for a day, was again the accident-prone commander. This time, however, there have been few public

recriminations and the Russian space agency has gone out of its way not to apportion blame, possibly out of concern that the commander could suffer a serious heart seizure in space.

Aleksandr Koretsky, the space correspondent for the daily *Sovodnya* newspaper, predicted that Mr Tsibliyev's real problems will begin after his return to earth on Thursday.

"He is going to get the toughest treatment of any cosmonaut in the history of the Russian space programme, or for that matter the Soviet space programme," he said.

Under the conditions of cosmonauts' contracts, the Russian space agency can deduct pay if it believes that work was not completed properly. For instance, in June 1995 two cosmonauts, Vladimir Dezhnev and Gennadi Strekalov, refused to conduct a space walk. They were fined on their return to Earth and only won their flight bonuses after a court action.

In Mr Tsibliyev's case the issue is more complex, since he has been subjected to far greater stress than any other commander in Russian space history because of the series of incidents on Mir. He could well argue that any attempt to put the blame on his command is a move by Russian space officials to avoid criticism that Mir is too old and too dangerous to remain operational for another two years.

The issue could become very heated and emotional, particularly after reports that his wife, Larisa, is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. The family lives in a small apartment in Star City, the cosmonaut training centre outside Moscow, where Mr Tsibliyev's son has been engaged in a series of angry rows with neighbours over his father's performance.

The family's troubles have been compounded by the recent death of Mr Tsibliyev's stepfather, whose death has been kept from the cosmonaut. During his last mission to Mir in 1993, his sister died.



Mary Kay LeTourneau holding the daughter fathered by a 14-year-old she once taught. She has lost custody of her four other children and faces a jail sentence

Teacher admits rape of boy

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN KENT, WASHINGTON

AN elementary school teacher who had a baby by one of her former pupils has pleaded guilty to rape of a child.

Mary Kay LeTourneau, a 35-year-old mother of four other children, could get up to 7½ years in prison when she is sentenced on August 29. She entered her plea on Thursday. Mrs LeTourneau said she still has feelings for the boy — who turned 14 a month after their daughter was born in May — and wants to raise the girl he fathered.

The two met when she taught him in a class of seven-to-eight year-olds in this Seattle suburb. "There was a respect, an insight, a spirit, an understanding between us that grew over time," she told *The Seattle Times*.

By the time he was in her class again, in his last year, she said, "he was my best friend. We just walked together in the same rhythm."

Mrs LeTourneau and the boy began having sex last summer. After she got preg-

nant, her husband told relatives, one of whom contacted school officials and social workers.

Mrs LeTourneau has since lost custody of her four other children — ages three to 12 — and her husband has filed for divorce.

The boy is receiving counselling. "He's doing fine as long as he's away from the situation and people don't harass him," said his mother, adding that he still loves the teacher.

Drunken neo-Nazis prey on campsites in eastern Germany

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

DRUNKEN youths brandishing baseball bats and yelling Nazi slogans are making life a misery for campers on the eastern German coast.

More than 160 violent incidents have been reported by the local press since the beginning of the summer and 250 extra police have been drafted to guard the tents and caravans of nervous tourists.

The assailants, usually drunk, shout slogans such as "Foreigners go home" during their frenzied night-time attacks. The assaults have been concentrated on the Baltic coast of Mecklenburg and the lakes of Brandenburg.

The targets — despite the anti-foreigner rhetoric — have been chiefly west Germans or Berliners rather than foreigners. In the second half of July alone, more than 30 people were assaulted. One group of campers was attacked with a chainsaw.

A typical incident occurred on June 28. Two drunks — one a 19-year-old who sold pickled herring on the seafloor — stumbled at midnight on to a tent pitched near a Mecklenburg village. As a joke, they woke up the sleeping family and demanded to see their identity cards.

Their target, however, turned out to be a holidaying policeman who sent them

packing. The youths gathered reinforcements and weapons. They returned within the hour and laid into the policeman and his wife, seven months pregnant, shouting right-wing slogans.

"If somebody shouts 'Heil Hitler' in this situation it is more likely to express the level of alcohol in his blood than his political viewpoint," says Professor Frieder Dunkel, who has been analysing youth violence for the police.

In southern Germany yesterday, a gang of about a dozen young skinheads went on the rampage at a campsite on the shore of Lake Constance and injured two people with baseball bats. One of the victims, a Turkish man, was taken to hospital with head injuries. The second victim was an 18-year-old German man who was later released from hospital. The youths had earlier been thrown off the campsite near Friedrichshafen for rowdiness.

□ Lübeck: A neo-Nazi, 25, who confessed to killing a police officer told a northern German court yesterday he had acted in self-defence. Kay Diesner, from Berlin, said at the opening of his trial that the "racist-imperialist state" had declared war against him, and he had "no regrets" over the killing. (AP)

Korea 'black boxes' point to pilot error

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PILOT error was suspected in the Korean Air 747 crash on Guam after an initial analysis of tapes from the aircraft's final moments yesterday.

Both the flight data and cockpit voice recorder indicated there were no engine, mechanical, electrical or system failures before the jet plunged into a hill three miles short of the airport on Wednesday, killing all but 29 of the 254 on board.

The crew said nothing to

suggest they knew of any problems as they approached the airport in a heavy rainstorm. "It was a very silent cockpit," one analyst said.

In Seoul, Korean Air said it was too soon to apportion blame. "We are not yet ruling out the possibility of a sudden change in altitude caused by torrential rains, the breakdown of the glide slope or other elements which, combined, could have caused the accident," the airline said.

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CHANGING TIMES

Riots and bulldozers return to townships

Councils get tough over bill payment boycott

FROM R.W. JOHNSON
IN JOHANNESBURG

IN scenes reminiscent of South Africa's anti-apartheid riots, armoured cars have been in action in Kwa Thema township near Johannesburg this week after black youths attacked council officials and stoned vehicles.

The riots are a response to municipal authorities enforcing rent and service payments to the Gauteng (Johannesburg, Pretoria) region.

There have been warnings that the Kwa Thema rioting could be the prelude to an explosion of vastly greater proportions. The scenes on television of bulldozers facing



A Telkom van burns during riots in Kwa Thema township as the utilities try to enforce payment of their bills. The authorities fear there may be more violence to come

furiously township crowds as they rip electricity cables out of the ground have caused anxiety here, stirring memories of the bulldozers sent in to squatter settlements by the apartheid Government to destroy illegal shack dwellings.

The present crisis has its roots in the culture of non-payment of rates, taxes, electricity charges and every other kind of service payment in black settlements in the 1970s and 1980s. Non-payment began as part of the anti-

apartheid struggle and was encouraged by the ANC under the slogan of making South Africa ungovernable. It was naturally embraced by poor black residents eager to escape payment on any terms.

The apartheid authorities quailed at the thought of the mass cut-offs of water, electricity and other services that non-payment implied, and so the habit became entrenched. Township dwellers became masters in the art of service piracy, splicing electricity ca-

bles to make thousands of illegal connections, siphoning water illegally from pipes, and hacking into telephone cables. With the ending of apartheid, the payment boycotts continued, but were now explained by the ANC as a pro-

test against illegitimate local government structures. Once there was local democracy with the ANC in power, all would be different. This all duly came to pass, and non-payments continued.

Now the state-owned electricity company, Eskom, faced by arrears of about £400 million from the Gauteng municipalities alone, has said it will cut off services unless payment is made. Local government is frantically trying to enforce payment.

One result is the rash of attacks on the houses of ANC councillors. Another is a radical improvement in payments: in Kwa Thema payments have multiplied nearly sevenfold since the measure began and are expected to double again in the next few days.

A trial of strength is under way, but with community organisations up in arms against the bulldozers it is by no means certain that the Government's nerve will hold.

□ Fugitive held: Archbishop Desmond Tutu's son, Trevor, was arrested by police on charges of contempt of court after he refused to heed his father's advice and hand himself over to the authorities. Police said Mr Tutu, 41, seized at his house in Johannesburg, will be taken to East London. He was arrested nearly four years after skipping bail of 10,000 rands in connection with a 3½-year prison sentence he was to serve for a bomb threat at East London's airport in 1989. (Reuters)

Opposition mob kills policeman in Nairobi riot

BY INIGO GILMORE

A GENERAL strike called by protesters campaigning for political reforms in Kenya turned violent yesterday as a Nairobi mob kicked to death a man believed to be an undercover policeman and rampaged through the city.

Witnesses said the man was beaten by a mob soon after a rally began in Uhuru Park. Two people narrowly escaped being lynched.

It was the first violent flare-up in the capital since early last month when 13 people were killed and millions of shillings worth of property was looted and destroyed. In two suburbs, demonstrators blocked roads and hurled stones at passing cars.

Shops in many Kenyan towns were closed, but this may have had more to do with fears of looting than support for the strike. It was called by the National Convention Executive Council, an umbrella group of opposition politicians, religious leaders and human rights activists, after Daniel arap Moi, the President, refused to heed demands for constitutional reforms before elections scheduled for this year.

However, the strike was declared illegal by the Government and support was not as

high as anticipated. In Mombasa, Kenya's second city, public transport ran as usual. In Nakuru, which in the past has seen some of the worst riots, shops were open as usual.

The poor turnout indicated divisions in an already divided Opposition. The independent Daily Nation newspaper had argued that the strike was the wrong way to advance the four-month campaign by the Opposition.

Mr Moi has helped to foment the divisions by offering cosmetic changes before the elections and a constitutional review afterwards.

However, the strike compounded worries in the stock market, which has seen the Kenyan shilling sink to a record low of 70.26 against the dollar this week.

This followed close on the heels of the withdrawal by the IMF of an aid package for Kenya because of its unhappiness with government corruption. Analysts said investors were concerned because President Moi had played down the IMF decision and urged Kenyans to become more self-reliant.

Mr Moi, 73, who has been in power for 19 years, has yet to name a date for the election.

'Miracle' escape from synagogue rocket

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RESIDENTS of the northern Galilee town of Kiryat Shmona had a lucky escape yesterday when the cement roof of a security room in the synagogue was shattered by a Katyusha rocket fired from southern Lebanon minutes after worshippers had left the building.

Ehud Barak, the Labour Opposition leader, who visited the town following the attack said: "It really was a miracle."

Three people in the town were lightly injured, one by flying glass. It is the first such attack since a ceasefire agreement more than a year ago.

Residents of south Lebanon were bracing themselves yesterday for Israeli reprisals. The attack came at the end of south Lebanon's bloodiest week for a year after an Israeli roadside bomb attack on Hezbollah guerrillas sparked a series of incidents that left 13 Lebanese dead, seven of them civilians.

□ Brussels: The European Union, which has a key mediating role in the Middle East peace process, said yesterday it was concerned about what it termed counter-productive measures introduced by Israel after last month's Jerusalem bombings.

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Emerald coast loses its lustre for Aga Khan

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE Aga Khan, who turned the Costa Smeralda in Sardinia into a playground for the rich and famous, is withdrawing his multimillion-pound investment in the area because local planning authorities are blocking his expansion plans, Italian newspapers reported yesterday.

The move is a body blow to Sardinia's image as an exclusive resort. Prince Karim Aga Khan is credited with discovering and developing what was then a rugged six-mile stretch of coast 40 years ago.

Sardinia, once described by D.H. Lawrence as "lost between Europe and Africa and belonging to nowhere", was largely known for its shepherds, its mountain bandits and its wild landscape until the Aga Khan's yacht took



Aga Khan: developed unknown coastline

refuge from a storm in a cove along the coast between Olbia and Porto Cervo in 1958.

The Prince was said to have been "stunned by the clarity of the crystal blue waters".

Within four years he and a

consortium of international businessmen had bought up much of the coastal land from peasants, allegedly at rock-bottom prices, and transformed it into an oasis of villas, pools and yacht clubs.

Residents and visitors to the Costa Smeralda (Emerald Coast) over the past four decades have included Princess Margaret — who allegedly first took refuge there to get over her love affair with Group Captain Peter Townsend — the Princess of Wales, King Juan Carlos of Spain and the Khashoggiis. Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian media tycoon and former Prime Minister, also owns properties on the island.

But the Costa Smeralda development is controlled jointly by the Aga Khan's company, Fimpar, and the American hotel chain ITT Sheraton, grouped together as



Porto Cervo, near the spot where the Aga Khan anchored in 1958 when the Sardinian coast was largely known for shepherds and bandits

Ciga Immobiliare Sardinia. According to island gossip, the Aga Khan's real motive for withdrawing is that he overextended himself, buying up too many hotels and villas at a time when he was making

losses in the tourism business and paying for a divorce from his wife, the Begum Salimah, the former model Sarah Crocker Poole.

According to *Corriere della Sera*, ITT Sheraton have

bought up shares in Ciga Sardinia, threatening to "reduce the Aga Khan to a marginal role in the empire he created".

The Aga Khan's version, however, is that he is fed up

with stonewalling by the Sardinian authorities over his "master plan" for new development, first outlined 18 years ago.

"I will still come to Porto Cervo, but from now on only

for holidays, as a visitor," he said yesterday. The Aga Khan's yacht, *Shergar*, which makes words like opulent seem inadequate, is expected to remain a regular star turn at the Porto Cervo Yacht Club.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



STYLE

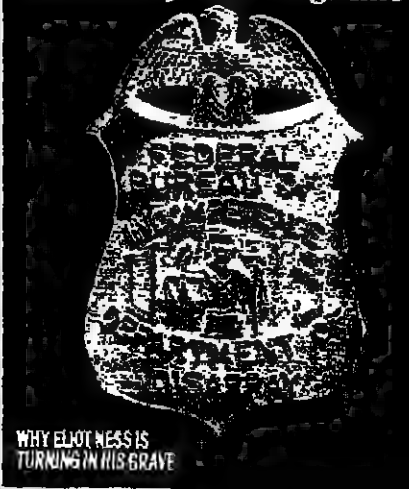
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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Chimps turn on the girl power

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FEMALE chimpanzees are not as docile and egalitarian as they appear. Behind the net curtains of chimp society, they are as interested in social status as any housewife on an exclusive housing estate.

They have a clearly defined hierarchy, and those at the top produce more babies, and healthier ones, than those at the bottom.

The findings, from a study in *Science* by Jane Goodall and colleagues in Gombe National Park in Tanzania, indicate that female chimps are less dependent on males as a source of status, and compete subtly for dominance without acts of overt aggression.

So subtle is this competition that it has gone undetected for 37 years, the time that Dr Goodall and colleagues have been observing the chimpanzees. But the females do not beat their chests, declare war on other females, or engage in any of the other blatant and aggressive male behaviour.

The only way the hierarchy could be detected was by the occasional "pant-grunt", a sign of subservience. For 22

years the team, which also included Drs Anne Pusey and Jennifer Williams, recorded the direction of each of the pant-grunts — that is, which female was admitting her social inferiority to which rival. This enabled them to sort them into high, middle and low-ranking groups.

They then compared the ranking with the number of babies the chimpanzees had, their survival, and the age at which the females infants reached sexual maturity.

This showed that females at the top had more infants, and those they did live longer than those lower down. One reason for this is that infants of low-ranking females are sometimes snatched and killed by the higher-ranking ones.

The research changes the picture of chimpanzee society, says Dr Williams. "Before, it looked like chimpanzee communities were a male construct and females were stuck in a bad position... now it looks like they have a lot more control than we thought."

Leading article, page 21

WORLD SUMMARY

Holbrooke settles row over Bosnian envoys

Britain yesterday gave a cautious welcome to the announcement in Sarajevo that new Bosnian ambassadors will be selected to represent all ethnic groups (Michael Binyon writes). But the ban imposed this week on dealing with the current Bosnian chargé d'affaires in London is not to be lifted immediately. Britain will hold consultations with allies and international negotiators in Bosnia. News that the three members of Bosnia's collective presidency had ended their quarrel over envoys was given by Richard Holbrooke, the American negotiator.

Slave-ring arrest in Mexico

Mexico City: Police have arrested the suspected ringleader of a group that trafficked in deaf Mexicans and forced them to work in America for slave wages, a federal spokesman said. More than 60 deaf Mexican immigrants were found in New York, Chicago and Detroit last month. (Reuters)

Elvis statue 'starts to weep'

Duane, Netherlands: A professional Elvis Presley impersonator claims his statue of "the King" has started to weep. Toon Nieuwenhuisen, 46, takes visitors to a dimly-lit bedroom to see a white plaster bust of Elvis, right, who died 20 years ago this month, with tears seemingly running down its cheeks. He says they are "tears of joy. He is crying for all his fans around the world." (Reuters)



No more waiting for Godot

Hanover: A mother won a year-long fight to name her son Godot when a court ruled that a city official was wrong to refuse to add it to his other names, Max and Geronimo, on the birth certificate. It overturned a lower court ruling that Godot was not a first name but "a fantastical literary name". (AFP)

OJ Simpson to keep piano

Santa Monica: O.J. Simpson won a preliminary court ruling to keep a baby grand piano seized as part of a \$33.5 million (\$22 million) wrongful death judgment as it belonged to his mother. He will continue to use a \$40,000 Ford Expedition car she claims to have leased until its ownership is resolved. (AP)

Comoros separatists protest

Mutsamudu, Comoros: Separatists on the breakaway Comoros island of Anjouan set fire to the house of a government minister and chased politicians and soldiers. In Fomboni, Moheli island's main town, secessionists declared a general strike and marched through the streets to demand "total independence". (AFP)

[illegible]

There was a time when the very words "Edinburgh Festival" were enough to quicken the sluggish pulse and plant a glint in the rheumiest eye. They evoked a wondrous three weeks during which an entire city — and not just any city, but the most sober-sided metropolis on Planet Celt — transmogrified into a giant playground, a gargantuan prep-school dorm, a colossal booze-up, a non-stop cabaret and (so it was reputed) a frenetic love-in, all at the same time — though I always seemed to miss out on the last bit.

When I first covered the festival, 20 years ago, people really did rush up and shout: "Get down to Venue 82, man; there's an Estonian *Troilus* that will blow your mind." It was like a parody of Sixties campus life multiplied a thousandfold: a celebration of wit, anarchy, art, sex, snuff, poseurs and pseudo; and a total rejection of the Three Cursed Cs: common-sense, capitalism, conformity. True, on the stroke of September 1 the participants all turned back into pumpkins of respectability —

Edinburgh's spirit is now just a ghost

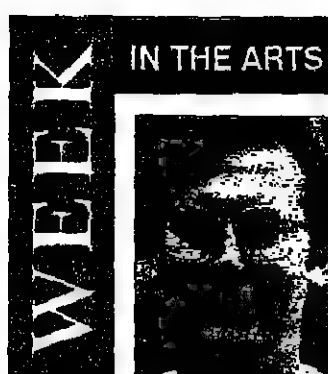
junior doctors, trainee accountants, apprentice solicitors. But in August, hey, we were free spirits. The question is: have I grown old and grey, or has the Edinburgh Festival? Perhaps, among the 9,644 performers said to be trekking to the Scottish capital for the three-week culture blitz that starts tomorrow, there may be some wide-eyed newcomers who will be as mesmerised as I was, two decades ago. Good luck to them. But the sad fact is that nobody old enough to have observed the changes in this megajamboree will greet a new instalment with anything approaching glee.

Why's that? Well, as that Edinburgh resident Robert Louis Stevenson noted: "To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive." The trouble with the festival is that it stopped travelling hopefully years ago. The names on the

handbills may change, but the shows, the formats, the drearily-engineered fake-scandals and synthetic bust-ups seem eternally fixed, like a set of particularly dull deities that require annual homage. The real "buzz", particularly about ground-breaking new work, long ago moved elsewhere.

You can't ignore Edinburgh, because it is so big; possibly five times the size of its nearest international competitors. But you can predict exactly how it will unwind each year, from the grand Usher Hall concerts to the strenuously zany Fringe revues. And in the arts, predictability is death.

Last year George Steiner mischievously suggested that, to celebrate its 50th birthday, the festival should abolish itself. Now that would be novel. I don't go that far. But I do think that "bulk is beautiful" isn't the best motto for any cultural organisation.



RICHARD MORRISON

Perhaps change will come with Scottish devolution. Many Scots already resent so much media attention, funding and sponsorship being sucked into one three-week event populated mostly by English and American punters

and performers, particularly when such fundamental national assets as Scottish Opera and Scottish Ballet totter along so precariously. The problem about reform, though, is that the festival has become a bit like Hal, the wilful computer in 2001: A *Space Odyssey*. Man has lost control of its destiny. Of course, there have been valiant efforts by talented individuals at the helm. In many ways Brian McMaster has been an exemplary director of the "official" programme, even if his pet thespians (Peter Stein, Mark Morris for the sixth successive year) are starting to seem over-familiar.

But the official programme is just a tiny part of the Edinburgh Experience. It is the overwhelming feeling of drowning in some soulless, shapeless custard ocean of culture that makes the festival so unappealing. Where is the sense of mutual purpose linking film festi-

val, book festival, television festival, the crassly self-important comedy venues, the sprawl of minimally-attended amateur theatre on the Fringe, and the "high art" of the festival proper? The answer is, there is none. Just a lot of coterie doing their own thing.

And who benefits from this cultural overkill? Journalists, mostly. An incredible 1,400 hacks will be accredited by the Fringe this year. Good grief, the First World War was covered by fewer reporters. I wonder how many will be brave enough to tell their readers (and their editors) that the festival is overblown, over-hyped and, yes, quite farcically over-reported.

Oh yes, and the Scottish tourist trade allegedly benefits. Yet Edinburgh surely cannot be proud of the face it shows the world in August. Its handsome streets are

abominably overcrowded, its hotels disgracefully overpriced. But what of the audience? Fifty years ago, when the festival was launched in a glow of postwar ideals, Edinburgh's Lord Provost spoke of it aspiring to "refresh souls and reaffirm belief in things other than the material". Naive words? Perhaps. Even 20 years ago, however, I remember finding a spiritual refreshment and intellectual stimulation in Edinburgh that could be found nowhere else.

Today, virtually all the main festival and fringe attractions also tour elsewhere. Other than offering a bigger package than anything else, Edinburgh has lost all its uniqueness. So what is its point? Is it like one or two other "renewed" British cultural institutions, there because it's there? Or will our critics be reporting events of such profound significance over the next few days that, in three weeks' time, we will gasp: "Gosh, how diminished life would be without the Edinburgh Festival?" I long for such a miracle, but harbour no great expectations.

THEATRE: Classic political sleaze with a gay subtext; England swings like a dead weight; doing Shakespeare proud

Wilde suggestion of a family outing

Peter Hall's long-lasting production, in and out of the West End on several occasions since 1992 and just back from a Broadway triumph, returns for a seriously we-meat-it-this-time final time, and is well worth seeing a second time, and certainly a first.

The play was written in the months before Wilde was destroyed by Victorian English morality, and its plot reflects his immediate circumstances. As shameless Mrs Cheveley blackmails Sir Robert Chiltern, so blackmailers were hounding Wilde. Chiltern's offence is to have sold a Cabinet secret to an international financier, £100,000 being his reward, making him the equivalent of a multi-millionaire today.

The revelation of sleaze in high places gives the play its tart contemporary relevance, but what Hall has also perceived is the play's long-neglected subtext, one of the most convincing and astonishing re-evaluations I can remember. It allows the play to arrive at a relatively happy ending — something hard to justify otherwise, except by the conventions of

An Ideal Husband
Theatre Royal, Haymarket

melodrama — by sorting out what is going on underneath.

Simon Ward, new to the role of Chiltern, may be called a tower of ivory by his priggish ignoramus of a wife (ie, she thinks him a model of all the virtues, only loving him because of this) but his screwed-up face, tormented even before the past overwhelms him, shows the physical cost of deception. Self-deception in his case, because his social eminence rests on a double lie.

When we hear the reverberating thrill in his voice as he speaks of the dead financier, we know that his real self approves of his crime. But he cannot even speak of his other secret, any more than Wilde was able to write of his similar one. Transparently, Chiltern and affable Lord Goring want or wanted to be lovers, and once our attention has been turned to this, the script supports it all the way, from the

Chiltern's childless marriage to Goring's eventual betrothal to Chiltern's sister, the closest he can get to his actual love.

Martin Shaw's plump and plummy Goring takes a while to get used to, in fact until one realises that this is not a mere wheeze to put Wilde on stage. His lips that purse, the cheeks that puff, the eyebrows that comment, oh so quizzically, on the double-entendre: it is a subtle, highly entertaining portrayal of an increasingly likeable person, even if, like several other cast members, Shaw can inexplicably turn from addressing a fellow actor to addressing us. Even Kate O'Mara, the new Mrs Cheveley, relishing success with triumphantly wide smiles, allows herself this old-fashioned trick.

Perhaps the long run has coarsened some of the acting. Details are over-emphasised, but Michael Denison, superbly got up to look the elder statesman, never overdoes the emphasis, his every scene a lesson in how to generate laughter by the throwaway line.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Hey Jude, what happened?

Carnaby Street is a tacky, depressing place these days. When I last walked down it, tourists were photographing chest-wear plastered with "I May Be Fat but You're Ugly" and similarly uplifting slogans. There were also a lot of baseball caps, postcards of London buses and Union Jacks. Where had all the glamour gone? The same place as Pete Seeger's flowers, I guess.

But the not-altogether-intentional message of James Hall's show is that Carnaby Street was a pretty gruesome alley even in its fashionable heyday. "I wish I was there, back in the Sixties," sing the cast, wiggling and hopping while coloured lights pulse and rock music throbs. But what actually emerges from a series of "grooves", as the programme calls the songs, is a banal, semi-demi-comprehensible tale of a would-be McCartney

or Jagger called Jude. When Kevin Curtin, who plays the role, first comes to London from the North in search of fame, fortune and other such incidentals, he cuts a pretty unappetising figure. But that only excites Michelle Connolly's Lady Jane, a lanky aristocrat in a shimmering silver sheath. They land up half-starving in a squat on Carnaby Street itself. He gets a "day job", I never twigged what, and hits her. She overdoses on heroin and dies. Their child is taken into care.

How, then, does Jude transmogrify into a superstar and eventually into a showbiz knight with clipped hair and a tie? Ask me another. Narrative clarity is not at all Hall's thing. Perhaps the lad had a hit with a song called *Transistor Radio*; perhaps not. At any rate, he ends up in the 1990s wrapped sexily around a member of a group called the

Carnaby Street
Arts

Rock Bottoms. Only to discover that she is his long-lost daughter. Delicacy of taste is not Hall's thing, either.

So what is his strength? Verve and brio, I suppose. The audience, which appeared to consist largely of paunchy and/or matorily survivors from the Sixties themselves, hooted and clapped along with his breath, energetic toots. It is difficult to judge the lyrics, for only occasionally does a line or half-line emerge intact from the heavily milked blur. I did understand that "love is gravity", "Clapton is gone" and even "this is a land of hope and glory, heavenly angels hear our story"; but the reason why a transvestite called Lily the Pink was moved to play lubricious games with an in-

flatable rubber guitar utterly eluded me.

At another point several members of Terry John Bates's admirably hard-working, hard-singing cast don Ruritanian uniforms and line up behind a drum inscribed with the Sergeant Pepper logo. Meanwhile, other performers parade with placards bearing photos of Einstein, Marilyn Monroe, Laurel and Hardy and Brando. Does this successfully evoke Carnaby Street and the rock scene of 30 years ago? No. Nor does anything else except, perhaps, the programme.

Among other things, this describes how Mars Bars briefly came to be thought of as aphrodisiacs, and tells you what a fuzz box is. I devoured it avidly. I wish I could say as much for the show itself.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Martin Shaw and Kate O'Mara in the latest incarnation of Peter Hall's production

Packed with good things

DAN CRAWFORD, the maverick artistic director of the King's Head in Islington, has produced yet another miracle of pocket engineering. A staggering cast of 22 dons lavish Restoration costumes for a full-blooded production of *Romeo and Juliet* on a stage barely six feet deep and not a lot wider.

It's the casting that gives his production its seductive charm. Old hands such as Thelma Ruby as Juliet's garrulous Nurse and Oliver Bradshaw as an elderly, drooling Capulet give thrusting youths Stash Kirkbride (Mercutio) and Andy Laycock (Tybalt) a believable framework for saucy, impatient youth and its fickle obsessions. Not least because the foolishness and prejudice of age is etched into their performances.

Despite the fact that he does not have a single stage credit to his name, teenage icon Sean Maguire, a star of TV's *Dangerfield*, makes a dreamy fist of Romeo. This hero bewitches himself, and by proxy Juliet, with his lush poetry. It's

a thoroughly self-conscious experiment. You can almost reach out and touch the irony when Maguire turns on his heel, spies Juliet on her balcony three feet away, and launches into "But soft! What light through yonder window breaks..."

Kirkbride's Mercutio, armed with perfect Bristol Old Vic enunciation and a pair of leather trousers, provides a sonorous antidote to Romeo's "dribbling love".

Katey Crawford Kastin's Juliet is the awkward, peevish and feisty object of Romeo's desire. She is cast almost to type, but Kastin hurdles the poetry with deceptive ease. As with Maguire there is a perceptible and deliciously ambiguous distance between what she speaks and what she might feel. Maguire fills the gap with irony; Kastin fills it with sentiment.

Despite the expediency of Crawford's production and these performances the second half of the play slips inexorably towards melodrama. This is as much Shakespeare's fault as the director's, and it does

not detract from what must be one of the most impressive and entertaining traffic jams on the London stage.

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Bollywood, batsmen and bowlers

Tunku Varadarajan on modern India's debt to cinema and cricket

All the world, it seems, has had its say on India these last few days, so why shouldn't I, India-born, a child of independence, fling down my four-annas' worth of scrutiny onto the mound of analysis, some of which has been banal, much of which is nostalgic, almost all of which has been far too earnest.

There has been so much talk of the Mahatma and that man Nehru, of the ghostly Mrs G and her trite son Rajiv, of middle-class booms and poverty, of casteism, Hinduism, secularism, Gandhism. Enough of that, I say. It's time to talk of matters that have really shaped modern India and forged the identity of its people. It's time to talk of Indian cricket, and of the country's cinema.

If someone comes up to you and says "Look, modern India is held together by regular elections", don't believe him. If another writes that India is really a unit because everyone has a statue of the elephant-god Ganesha at home, or of the cowherd-god Krishna, react a little sceptically. Those gods are important, of course, but they divide people as much as unite them. No, modern India owes less to its politicians and gods than to its cricketers and film-stars. I will focus on two specific examples.

Why has India, so demonically "fissiparous" (a word beloved of the sub-continent's political scientists), held together for so long? Why have Indians — who speak so many languages, dress so differently and look so different from each other, and who were only brought together by the British — stayed together, their bonds in fact stronger today than they were at independence?

Here is my answer: modern India has been held together largely by Kapil Dev and Amitabh Bachchan, the first a swashbuckling, moustache-wielding Punjabi cricketer who took more wickets than anyone in Test cricket and played with an abandon not seen since the age of sepias, the second a long-limbed hero of the Bollywood screen, whose voice boomed while his fists flailed at the scum who would abduct his sister, assault his wife, destroy India's economy by smuggling drugs, or poison her youth by peddling drugs. Both great men, as you can see, and both makers of modern India. I grew up with, and worshipped, both of them, for they gave millions of men, women and children their most vital political lesson in what it meant to be "an Indian".

Each time Kapil — he was known only as Kapil in that curious Indian way in which over-familiarity is the twin of reverence — went out to bat, people expected a *chhaka*, or six. And each time he hit a six, he cemented Madras to Chandigarh, Mysore to Calcutta. He came to be, as all India's cricketers are, a metaphor for the country. He was the face India showed to the world, his flailing with bat were his country's chosen form of expression. His inability to speak idiomatic English, too, helped to define an Indian counter-culture, one where Hindi-wallahs, Punjabi-speakers, Tamilians or Marathis could consign post-colonial India's Anglocentric cultural cringe firmly to the dustbin.

But Kapil, now retired, had a fragility that Indians loved, one which reflected their own tenuous grasp on success and well-being. A duck was often as likely as a six, just as he could be carted freely for runs as a bowler as often as he ran through sides.

Amitabh — that first name again — was different. He appealed to that part of the Indian imagination which craves indestructible heroes, the modern equivalents of the Pandavas from the *Mahabharata*, or of Lord Rama, who slew the demon Ravana. Most importantly, from the point of view of India's unity, Amitabh belonged to a "movement" more powerful than any political party: his filmic current ran across the length of the country, wedding people to a shared source of wonderment, to a shared idiom of make-believe, to a common body of Manichean discourse that transcended regional affiliation and, often, linguistic barriers. "We're all the same, *yaar*," was the message.

Cricket's role has been more subtle. Whereas Bollywood's films and message reached even the most remote of India's villages, cricket is a game played mainly in the cities. Yet its impact has been no less significant: in quickening the country's metropolitan pulse, Kapil and his merry band of men have fused India's cultural "city-states" so effectively that they will not now be easily disentangled. And cities, through history, have always led the countryside.

India's cricketers are gladiators now for a vast, expectant urban population, whose sense of self rests squarely on those who wear whites for the country. India's film-stars bear the weight of the sub-continent's long mythological tradition. Distanced from religion, however, they do not tear the country's people apart as the figures from older myths have tended to do. Kapil and Amitabh, what would India have done without them?

Clive Aslet says the Government is heaping gaffe upon gaffe in its dealings with the countryside

New Labour has done an astonishing job in antagonising rural Britain in the short time it has been in office. Uncongenial though the slow-moving complexities of the shires may be to eager new politicians, anxious to make their mark, the Government would do well to turn its mind to the countryside. It is in danger of becoming a well in which the Government will accidentally let drop the golden opinions of the public.

Last month the rural population turned out in force for the Countryside Rally in Hyde Park, and may have gone home believing they had made their point. If anything could have been calculated to infuriate them, it was a review to limit the availability of shotguns and rifles. We now hear that that is exactly what the Government has launched.

Like Labour's amendment to the Firearms Act, rushed through on its taking office, which has all but destroyed the sport of pistol shooting, further restrictions to shotgun licences will do little to prevent the use of guns in crime. With so many handier and more devastating firearms at the villager's disposal, the era of sawn-off shotguns now seems almost quaint. But a review would penalise the rural community, for whom shooting is part of life.

Not only do country people think that the Government knows less about the countryside than they do about inner-city housing estates, but they fear the

Beware smoke signals from the rural bonfire

difference in mentality that they perceive between them and Westminster. They see politicians as dangerously susceptible to theories. Country people tend to be pragmatists, used to ordering their lives according to the experience of generations. Theoretically, it might seem sensible to prevent youngsters from shooting until they reach the age of consent. Presumably those who hold this view envisage a teenager with a shotgun as a more lethal equivalent of a two-year-old with a garden hose. The reality, though, is exactly the opposite. Shooting people enforce the rules of etiquette which govern their sport with a ferocity that David Blunkett and his team could learn from. The child — or indeed adult — who transgresses them is treated to a dose of humiliation that he or she is never likely to forget. As a result, the British safety record is far better than that of continental countries, regulated by age limits and compulsory examinations.

To initiate the gun review so soon after

the Countryside Rally was probably just a gaffe — but it is stacking up with other gaffes. Perhaps it did not occur to Gordon Brown that his budgetary measures to raise the cost of motoring — through petrol, vehicle licence, and insurance — would discriminate against rural areas. But they will. Large parts of rural Britain are devoid of adequate public transport. Even the poorest people there will struggle to keep a car going, because they have no other means of reaching shops, schools, and work places. I am the first to agree with the growing consensus that, as a nation, we use our cars too much. But the Chancellor should have targeted commuters and other drivers for whom the car is a matter of choice, not necessity. Equally, it may delight the green lobby that half the roads programme has been cancelled, but it will not wear so well in many country areas.

Then there is BSE. Last month Jack Cunningham persuaded his colleagues in Europe that their standards in

slaughtering should match ours, given that BSE does exist, probably at greatly undeclared levels, in partner countries. But it will be of no practical benefit to beef and dairy farmers, who now find — despite Labour's clamour for even greater cuts when it was in Opposition — that the Government may not meet the full costs of compensation for the slaughter programme.

Largesse may appear to be on offer from John Prescott's regional development agencies, but they are a gift horse which country dwellers should look carefully in the mouth. "Regional" sounds good — but you can be sure that the money distributed will be to mono-lithic projects in big regional cities, not small-scale grants to help the village shop. As for the building of two million new homes on green-field sites in southern England, Nicholas Raynsford's ideas have caused such a furore that the Department of the Environment has been distancing itself from his

proposals, emphasising that they have yet to obtain Cabinet approval. But once that approval has been obtained, what point will there be in remonstrating?

Nor will the hunting issue go away. There is too much naivety among new Labour members, childishly open to persuasion by animal rights campaigns, for that. It is said that "the bull must be lanced", and from his verandah in Tuscany, Tony Blair must think how that can be done. The smoke already coming from the rural bonfire suggests the last thing it needs is more paraffin. A Royal Commission is his obvious escape route — though the blood of the hunting lobby is now up, and he might have difficulty (following Professor Patrick Bateson's report on stag hunting for the National Trust), in convincing them it would give their side a fair hearing.

To some country people, there was an irony about Mr Blair's recent initiatives in Northern Ireland. Just as he was struggling to tie the recalcitrant tendrils of sectarian opinion into the trellys of the peace process, new Labour boots were tramping over rural Britain's tender stems. No one would expect the Government to have an instinctive sympathy for country opinion, often coloured by the traditionalism and political incorrectness that they would like to eradicate, but if Mr Blair is to succeed as a one-nation Prime Minister he will have to turn opponents into friends.

Clive Aslet is Editor of Country Life

No better recipe for conflict

Labour is in too much of a hurry to reform the constitution, says Max Beloff

Labour has been in power for a hundred days. One might have thought that an incoming government with a large majority would have taken such issues as employment, the environment, social security, education or health care — to name only the most obvious — as its priority for action. Instead, the bulk of legislative time is being devoted to a series of constitutional "reforms", ill-digested and undebated and carried out at a pace that is impossible to justify and has no parallel in our long constitutional history.

For the more than 300 years that have elapsed since the "Glorious Revolution", the defining moment of the modern British state, there has been a constant evolution of the system towards what we know today: in the 18th century the development of the responsibility of the executive to the House of Commons; in the 19th and 20th centuries, the vast extensions of the franchise and the subordination of the Upper to the Lower House; in our own time the wide extensions of the role of central government in every aspect of the nation's life.

What is striking is both the flexibility of the institutions, some dating back to the Middle Ages, and the fact that all the major changes brought about by them were the subject of prolonged public debate among the political class of the day, and at times even among those excluded from the political process. Some of the country's best minds were devoted to the detailed consideration of proposals for change. None of this applies to the current proposals, whether for "devolution" to Scotland and Wales, for changes in the electoral system and the government of London, for changes in the composition of the House of Lords or for the incorporation into British law of a set of abstract principles originally enunciated for quite different purposes.

The support for including such measures in the Government's programme and in Parliament's timetable springs in part from intellectual fashions in certain influential quarters, in part from minority aspirations, and in part from their apparent lack of impact on national finances. When one asks for an explanation of how the whole thing hangs together one gets from the Lord Chancellor the reply that there is no need to worry since he chairs all the relevant Cabinet committees, and can be trusted to see that co-ordination is maintained. (see the article by Lord Irvine of Lairg in *The Times*, July 2).

One can of course see one obvious outcome were all these measures to be enacted. We would have abandoned the flexibility conferred by the sovereignty of the Crown in Parliament to the rigidity of a "written constitution". It is sometimes said that we have never had a

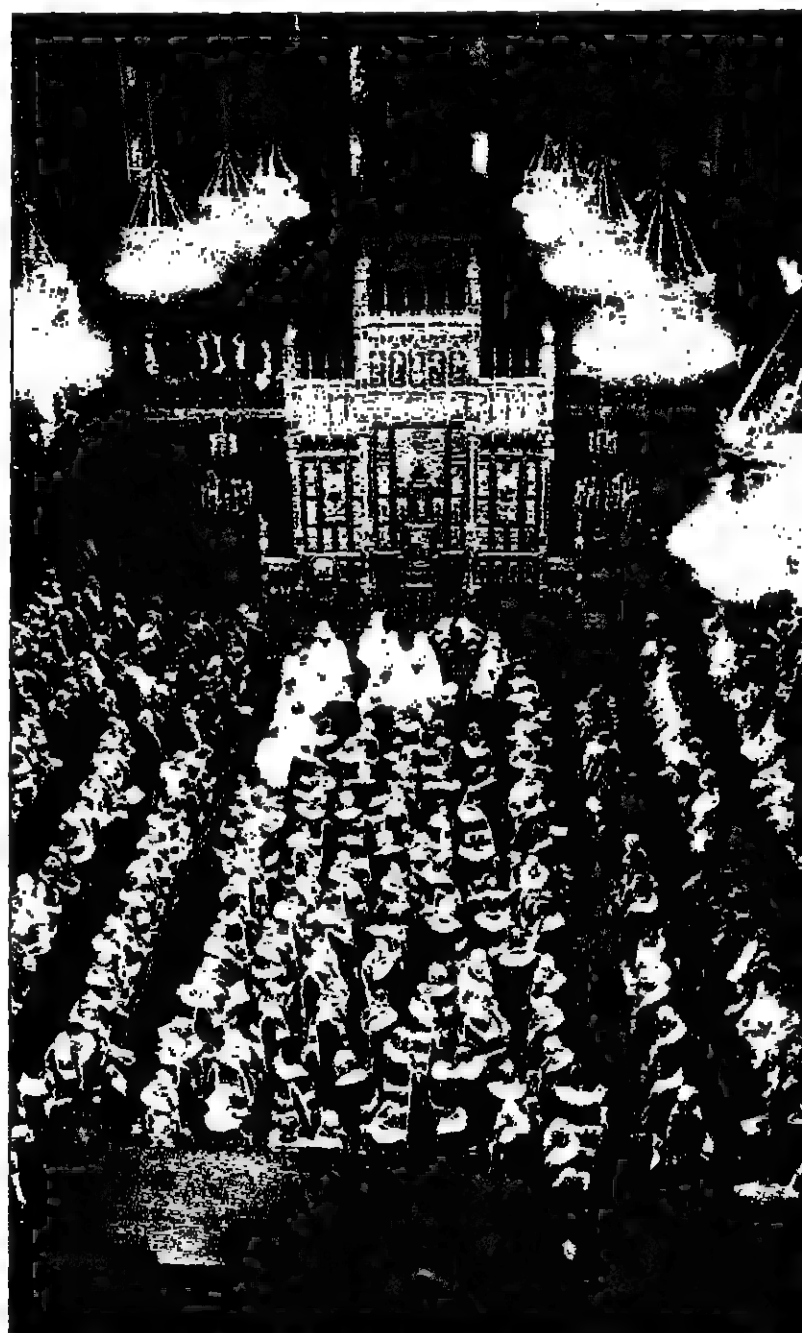
written constitution, but that betrays the widespread ignorance of English history, which is not the least disturbing outcome of our educational system. We have, in fact, had two: the Instrument of Government of 1653 and the Humble Petition and Advice of 1657. Neither worked to general satisfaction and England ended up subject to virtual military government, which only ended with the welcome restoration of Charles II. Without wishing to draw an exact parallel between the present holders of power and Cromwell and his major generals, it is a period in the country's history best not forgotten.

None of this is to suggest that all constitutional change is to be deprecated. Some constitutional questions are unavoidable, though possibly insoluble. Northern Ireland comes to mind. But the only sound basis for meaningful change is a consideration of what is actually happening. If one considers recent decades, two obvious changes in the constitutional position are evident.

The most obvious, in the sense of its being easier to define, has been the passing of the law-making power of the UK Parliament to the institutions of the European Union and the transfer of the power to interpret our laws from our independent judiciary to courts at Strasbourg and Luxembourg. Since the impact of both these developments has implications for our domestic well-being as well as for our relations with other countries, a wise government would begin by seeing to what extent Parliament's powers and those of our judges can be restored.

Why this inquiry has not been embarked upon by any of the governments that have held office since the fateful decision to adhere to the Treaty of Rome leads one to the second development that should cause concern. The contemporary House of Commons is suited neither in its procedures or its personnel to discharge its classical responsibilities — the serious consideration of legislation, and the supervision of the executive. Decreasing numbers of MPs have either the experience or the range of skills to perform such duties with confidence, and would appear to be regarded by the voters principally as local "ombudsmen". Moreover, they seem to show an unwillingness to submit their proposals to scrutiny or amendment in the House of Lords, where both experience and expertise are found to a much greater degree.

The argument for haste is buttressed by the claim that devolution cannot be postponed in view of the national demands of the Scots and the Welsh. Again the argument is hard to sustain. Wales has been part of a common policy since the time of the Tudors, Scotland



Ill-debated reforms of ancient institutions are being rushed through at a pace that is impossible to justify and has no parallel in our long constitutional history

gave up its separate parliament nearly 300 years ago. Would it not be a good idea to allow some time to get the new dispensation on the right lines? The advocates of devolution thrive on a confusion between the widely accepted principle of national self-determination and the concrete suggestions for devolution. If a nation truly aspires to run its own affairs, the general consensus today is that its independence should be accepted — though examples across Europe (including Ireland) and elsewhere show that when a sizeable majority rejects the new regime for whatever reason, even independence may not be the solution. In some cases, however, a federal rather than a unitary

form of government may provide the due to success.

Federalism is a respectable idea with a long history. It has developed accepted norms of procedure and has produced an impressive body of literature. But the reasons for rejecting federalism for the United Kingdom, or "Home rule all round" as it used to be styled, are familiar and persuasive. So instead the Scots are held to desire devolution: that is to say that Englishmen should have no say in the affairs of Scotland while Scotsmen in the Westminster Parliament should continue to have a voice in English affairs. It is hard to think of a better recipe for conflict.

To this one must add the much

canvassed question of financial relations and the less often raised issue of the strains on the role of the monarch, and the integrity of the Civil Service. But whatever one's view of these and other matters, one thing is clear. While Scottish independence would not massively affect the governance of the rest of the United Kingdom, devolution involves the recasting of the entire constitution. It is thus of as much importance to residents in England as to those who inhabit Scotland or Wales — the denial of a vote to the English in the referendum shows the extent to which the whole implications of their proposals are unappreciated by the Lord Chancellor and his colleagues.

It is also the case that devolution fits into the process by which British self-rule has been undermined by EU institutions. Some advocates of devolution have no qualms about admitting their expectation that what they are seeking is not so much more self-rule for the Scots as more power for "Europe" over Scotland and the other regions of Britain. Indeed the co-chairman of the Scottish Convention, Baroness Ramsay of Carrville, has made it clear that she sees no contradiction between her championing of devolution and her commitment to further European integration. Her braveheart is not William Wallace but Jacques Santer.

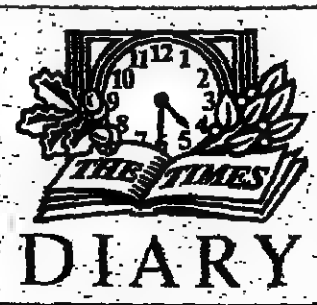
Compared with the threatened destruction of the unity of the kingdom, playing around with the composition of the House of Lords might be seen as a minor folly. But it illustrates the shallowness of the whole current approach to constitutional reform. How can the composition of a legislative chamber be decided without a clear notion of its proposed powers and functions? And how can this be known when the powers and scope of the House of Commons itself remain to be decided? All we have been told so far is that the Government is committed to removing the rights of hereditary peers. For a government that claims to be "pragmatic" this is an interesting example of its innate dogmatism. The reason given is that the hereditary principle is wrong. We sometimes get the additional claim that it is undemocratic, which should mean that it is a principle rejected by the population at large. In fact, a survey of many human societies at all levels of sophistication suggests that hereditary social roles, including leadership, are not infallible. Looking down from the gallery at the new House of Commons one might feel that selecting citizens for public duties by lot would give as good results and more cheaply. This is no more outrageous a notion than most of those now peddled as constitutional "reforms".

Lord Beloff is a former Gladstone Professor of Government and Public Administration at Oxford

Making a mess

FILMING the new movie version of *The Avengers* began at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich on Wednesday in chaos. A storm of simulated snowflakes — consisting of polystyrene chips and raw potato — was released upon the cast, including Uma Thurman and Sean Connery, outside the building. Unfortunately, a flurry of flakes was sucked into the banqueting room, the Painted Hall, through the ventilation system.

There they stuck to the great baroque ceiling, painted by the 18th-century artist, Sir John Thornhill, to the Tuscan columns and to the giant pilasters separating the lower hall and upper galleries. Further devastation was wrought when two miniature cranes brought in by the film company to transport props went trundling over the 16th-century flagstones, leaving the authorities clutching their stomachs in pain.



"There's a frightful mess," says a college inhabitant who witnessed the fiasco. "The potato bits are particularly hard to scrape off the walls and ceilings. We may need to employ an official picture restorer to deal with the Thornhill ceiling, but the flagstones are irreplaceable." The film company was unavailable for comment but will be expected to make good their mess.

Gummed up

ANGLO-ITALIAN relations in London are being strained by chewing-gum deposits. The gum has been piling up on the pavement outside the Italian Consulate in

Car trouble

MECHANICAL failure is spreading down from the Mir space station to infect even the highest echelons of Russian life. Yesterday

Belgravia, left by the long queues of schoolchildren and tourists waiting to get in to the understaffed office. The local dowagers and Euro-millionaires are furious at endlessly finding gum on the soles of their soft leather shoes.

Despite repeated complaints, however, neither Westminster Council nor the consulate will accept responsibility for the mess. "Chewing gum is categorised as an antisocial deposit," says a spokesman at Westminster Council, "and we have special cleansing equipment to deal with it, but it is too expensive to mobilise it on such a small area. Can't the consulate pick it off themselves?" It would appear not.

"I regularly inspect the deposits," says Dr Lucio Savola, the genial Italian Consular-General, "and I find them most un-sympatico. But I can't possibly ask my cleaning staff to deal with the problem. It would be too demeaning."

morning, the usual cavalcade of limousines, security guards and motorcycle outriders, carrying President Yeltsin to work at the Kremlin was accompanied by the sound of a hideous screeching. The front wing of Yeltsin's own stretched Mercedes limousine was hanging off and scraping along the ground as the car raced along. To

the visible embarrassment of Yeltsin's poons, on the pavements all round, Moscowites were doubled up laughing at this display of presidential power and, worst of all, a sniggering band of American tourists.

● Dodi Fayed, "De Man for Diana" as my tabloid colleagues describe him, has at least got a playboy's name. Dodi, a pet name for Emad, is commonly pronounced "Doodi" and is a favourite of mummy's boys and rascals.

Hard act

LONDON'S more sensitive literati are to receive a shot in the arm with the arrival in October of Hunter S. Thompson. He is making a rare sortie from his home in Woody Creek, Colorado, to promote his new book *The Proud Highway: The Fear and Loathing Letters*. Unfortunately for those who are having to handle him, he is feeling prickly — not a desert cactus.

In a fax to his publisher, David Reynolds, of Bloomsbury, Thompson reveals a Queen Mother-ish taste in hotels and says he is prepared to come but only on certain



Thompson: pinched nerve

conditions: "Assuming we can work out suitably comfortable accommodations [sic]," he writes, "travel and professional medical attention for the pinched sciatic nerve in my back. It tends to act up when I travel. No doubt Claridge's will have a chiropractor on call at all hours in case of problems." One more condition: "I cannot be forced to stand naked five or six hours at a time in Scottish drinking contests."

P.H.S



The Painted Hall and Uma Thurman: covered in flakes



ONE HUNDRED DAYS

An American import Blair should have done without

There was a time not long ago when political eras were measured in decades or at least the length of a government. In the soundbite era, a mere 14 weeks is deemed sufficient for reflection and celebration. The Government plans an annual report so that we might enjoy such occasions on a regular basis. There is little harm in this idea, provided the inevitably partisan document concerned is issued by and financed through the Labour Party and not sponsored by the taxpayer.

The original one hundred days referred to the flight of Louis XVIII from Paris. It has become better known after Napoleon Bonaparte, whose 116-day march between escape from Elba and defeat at Waterloo in 1815 prompted the King to quit his capital. In this century, the phrase has been most closely associated with the early period of Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency. In a 100-day session, Congress passed 243 major pieces of "New Deal" legislation in 1933 that had been promoted by the White House. As new Labour has imported most of its policies and all of its campaign techniques from the United States it comes as little surprise that it has now raised American political vocabulary.

President Roosevelt offers an interesting if inconsistent example for the Prime Minister. In substantive terms the President would be an inappropriate figure for emulation. The New Deal programme represented an enormous extension of central authority. A new role was established over economics, regulation and welfare, all of which required Washington to occupy terrain that had previously been the preserve of state and local administration. The challenge of the 1990s — as Roosevelt's fellow Democrat, Bill Clinton, has found — is how to retreat from such commitments in an orderly fashion. Tony Blair may accept this fate but whether his party does remains another matter.

Roosevelt, like Mr Blair, had inherited a political party out of power for over a decade not least because of internal doctrinal struggles. The Democrats in the 1920s fought over numerous issues, the most potent of which was prohibition. One faction

favoured repeal of the constitutional ban on alcohol, while another supported its retention with equal enthusiasm. The two camps were respectively known as "wets" and "drys" — terms that Margaret Thatcher lifted from the American political dictionary in the 1980s. Roosevelt's nomination represented the final triumph of the "wets" and soon afterwards the offending 18th amendment was deleted from the US Constitution.

What Mr Blair can learn from Roosevelt mainly has to do with style and strategy. The Democrat was elected in a landslide, but one attributed to distaste for an unpopular incumbent. Roosevelt's leadership was radical but within the mainstream of the American constitutional tradition. He deployed inclusive methods and sought, in office, to expand his coalition rather than rest on his vast majority. His public relations machine was brilliant but based on substance not manipulation. As a consequence he was elected by an even larger margin and his Democratic Party dominated American politics for the next three decades.

The Prime Minister would doubtless regard this as a rather enticing precedent. At its best his Government looks as if it might match Roosevelt's formidable skills; at other moments it looks distinctly Bonapartist. Humility was an essential ingredient in the electoral appeal of the New Deal President. He came to detest the 100-day tag. It was, he complained, in 1939, artificial and a burden on later initiatives. It took the outbreak of the Second World War before he could reclaim his original vision.

His successors have had more reason to regret that the concept was ever invented. President Kennedy realised that it would be impossible to repeat Roosevelt's experience. In his inaugural address he argued that "All this will not be finished in the first hundred days. Nor will it be finished in the first thousand days, nor in the life of this Administration nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin." Such thoughts should steer Mr Blair in the 1,700 days or so before he next encounters the electorate.

CRYING FOUL

After Grobbelaar's acquittal, the FA is in the dock

As the football season starts in earnest today, one cloud hanging over the game has been dispelled but causes for disquiet remain. Yesterday's acquittal of Bruce Grobbelaar after accusations of match-fixing and the clearing earlier this week of Hans Segers and John Fashanu on related charges leaves neither a stain on their characters nor justified suspicion that professional football has been systematically corrupted. While the establishment of their innocence reassures, it is no cause for complacency on the part of the game's governing body. The public may also feel that it is not just the laws of the game which require overhaul. The long-drawn out nature of the legal process has already caused the indefatigable Linlithgow MP, Tam Dalyell, to question the wisdom of the prosecution.

The courts, however, have less reason to look to their procedures than the Football Association. Mr Dalyell speaks for many when he expressed his bewilderment that matches might be believed to have been thrown when the video evidence suggested that Mr Grobbelaar was exerting himself above and beyond the call of goal-keeping duty. The MP's argument, while it may have resonance on the terraces, does not, however take into account the other evidence which the court considered.

The manner in which John Fashanu and Hans Segers dealt with initial inquiries into their financial affairs justified the Crown Prosecution Service's decision to bring the case. By declining to give the investigating authorities the answers they wanted about their salting away of significant sums they

contributed to bringing matters to trial. Although their reticence in no way takes away from their absolute innocence, the presiding judge, Mr Justice McCullough, was nevertheless entitled to refer to it when weighing their application for costs. Greater doubt over their part might have prevented matters having to be established in court. The judge's decision, although unusual, is certainly not outrageous.

What does give rise to proper concern is the loophole in the Football Association's rules governing players' involvement in gambling. Although professional footballers cannot bet on the results of matches in which they are involved, they can act as paid consultants to gambling organisations which do wager on the outcomes of those matches. The defendants in this case were, quite properly, acting as gambling consultants and it was the confusion created by their acting in this role which gave rise to suspicion of wrongdoing.

It is remarkable enough that the Football Association has allowed the anomaly to exist. It would be insupportable to see it continue. For so long as footballers can act as consultants to gambling organisations, suspicions of a conflict of interest can easily arise. A change in the rules would hardly prove an onerous restraint of trade for professional footballers. Recent court judgments and the rise of sporting agents have secured handsome rewards for footballers, with Premiership players earning some £150 million last year. There is no excuse for the men in Lancaster Gate to tackle this challenge with their customary torpor.

SPICE CHIMPS

The female of the species is deadlier than the male

What Kipling, no doubt after prudently cursory inspection backed by peasant hearsay, observed of the Himalayan she-bear has now, after 37 years of painstaking anthropological observation, been confirmed to be true of the Gombe chimpanzee. Kipling's tag would not, of course, be so familiar if it did not speak to a truth subliminally acknowledged — even if pre-feminist man had a rash tendency to quote him, nodding in the direction of a dutiful spouse, with fondly patronising irony.

There seems, too, to be little novelty in the finding by a team led by Jane Goodall, the doyenne of chimpanzee-watchers, that while the poor, simplistic male relies on things like chest-thumping and warmongering to establish his dominance, females rarely bother to resort to blatant aggression. From Deilali to our own Princess Diana, women have made devastatingly effective use of the subtle weapons of sexually loaded charm to further their careers. Modern man falls as easily for such devices as he did when a certain smile launched a thousand Greek ships and burned the topless towers of Ilium.

Before passing this page to their partners with a wordless curve of the lips, however, women should read on. For what really excites the Goodall team is not the age-old story of man's vulnerability to woman's wiles, but the ways in which, without any evidence of bullying, or of violence beyond the nasty habit of eating the offspring of

their unsuccessful rivals, female chimps reduce others of their own sex to a helpless and repeated "pant-grunt" of subservience. Winners take all, moreover; they not only grab the hulkier male hulks, but have more children; and their children are far more likely to survive. And power, once won, is handed down through the generations. The daughters of top chimps become sexually mature well before those of lower-ranking females, giving them a head start in the reproductive race. High-ranking mothers help daughters in their turn to dominate their peers. The daughters also put on more weight earlier — but then that is good news in the chimp, if not the human, world.

The team claims to be surprised by these discoveries, having previously believed that Tanzanian chimpanzee communities were "a male construct" where "females were stuck in a bad situation, putting up with a lot of aggression." That may tell us more about the anthropomorphic tendency in anthropology than anything else. Once feminism had taken hold in the human world, it was bound eventually to influence our assessment of animal habits. But this is not, in the end, a tale to warm the feminist heart for it would seem to confirm something else that men have always suspected, and women indignantly denied: that in a crunch, there is no such thing as female solidarity. So unattractive a trait must, of course, be confined to the world of chimpanzees.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Labour's debt to Peter Mandelson

From Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, Bruce Anderson ("Spinning out of control", August 6) cannot have it every way. Peter Mandelson, he says, "not only invented Tony Blair, he also reinvented the Labour Party" and suggests that without him Labour would not have had its huge majority. Not bad going for a man who, in Mr Anderson's partisan polemic, "does not have an original mind".

As a founder and member for almost twenty years of Labour's Finance and Industry Group, I have not the slightest doubt that, had Peter Mandelson been around 18 years ago, we would have been very glad to have had him on board and that, with him, Labour would not have had to wait nearly two decades to get back into power.

If, as Mr Anderson charges, Mr Mandelson's principal assets are "fear, distrust and ruthlessness", he really must explain how all these were applied to a coward British electorate, including a goodly number of ex-Tories, so that they returned Labour with such a thumping majority.

Anyone who can commit to print the view that the Tories constitute "the most formidable of all democratic parties" is really not in touch with reality.

Yours faithfully,
S. STERNBERG
(Chairman), ISYS plc
(Hydrex), The Hyde, Edgware Road, NW9, August 7.

Claims by ex-PoWs

From Lord Campbell of Alloway

Sir, Brigadier Davies-Scourfield's letter (August 6), suggesting that many ex-PoWs are embarrassed by attempts to squeeze money out of the Government, reflects the broad and informal consensus of those of us at Colditz, as expressed at a recent annual meeting of our association.

Deductions by the Paymaster were known soon after we returned home after the war. We were not advised of any entitlement to compensation but, for the reasons given by Davies-Scourfield, we were not disposed to make any such claim. If there were any entitlement a claim could and should have been made at that time or shortly thereafter. Even financial injustice is subject to delay, which defeats all manner of justice.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
LORD CAMPBELL OF ALLOWAY
(PoW, Germany, 1940-45),
2 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4, August 6.

From Mr Geoffrey Bensusan

Sir, As prisoners of war in Germany we received barely enough to eat and certainly no money of any sort to buy anything.

Perhaps prisoners deserve little sympathy. But I was certainly not prepared, when I did get back, for the income tax demand I received, in respect of so-called camp pay that never was.

My newly elected Labour MP had a great deal of trouble in getting it set aside. Plus ça change?

Yours etc,
GEOFFREY BENSUSAN
(PoW, Germany, 1944-45),
Mansfield Cross,
Ashburnham, Battle, East Sussex.

From Squadron Leader Jack Arkinstall, RAF (ret)

Sir, In 1941 I was posted as "missing, believed killed in action". My wife's marriage and other allowances were stopped immediately and not restored until my return.

In those days there was no social-services net for her to fall into; she had to work to support herself and our three-year-old daughter.

Yours sincerely,
JACK ARKINSTALL
(Detainee, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, 1941),
99 Beach Road, Selsey,
Chichester, West Sussex,
August 6.

Interest rates

From Mr Ronald Evans

Sir, Now that interest rates have gone up by another 0.5 per cent, the general election (including article, August 8) is an alternative rise of 1 per cent have been better as soon as the government took office.

This would be a good time to make up for the pre-election effect of monetary policy and to give a greater psychological boost.

Raising interest rates in a series of small steps prolongs the period during which they are on the increase and encourages currency speculators to bid up sterling. It may also mean, as in 1988-89, that rates rise further, and stay high for longer, than expected.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD EVANS,
27 Grove Terrace, NW5,
August 8.

Weekend Money letters, page 34

Letters may be faxed to
0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Royalty, divorce and Church 'crisis'

From the Rev. Canon Andrew P. de Bary

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury's warning of a crisis in the Church of England over Prince Charles's remarriage report, August 6, could alternatively offer the Church a unique opportunity to show common sense and compassion.

We may not be sure how or if the Prince has sinned for his admitted adultery, but that is a matter for his own conscience. Many of us standing far off may judge that our future monarch has suffered ignominy and punishment enough. How long ought we to prolong the torment of a man who — for whatever reasons — made a chronic error of judgment, given that throughout his marriage he was in the doubt concerning the woman whom he actually loved?

If the Church barge on about divorce and the constitution, it makes a nonsense of allowing the remarriage of divorcees in church, and of turning a blind eye to the huge numbers of newly-weds who have cohabited before marriage.

Often the Church of England is noted for its expertise in finding a compromise. Sometimes it is as though it held the patent on Judging. But here it was ruling HRH Prince Charles to be wrong and in a happy non-tortive marriage to Camilla, the Church would display sanctified common sense and the very best of compromises.

Any crisis would rest on the shoulders of bigots and legalists, who by their nature exercise neither compassion nor common sense.

Yours etc,
ANDREW P. DE BARY,
The Vicarage, Southwell Road,
Thurgarton, Nottinghamshire,
August 7.

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury is saying that there is a crisis in the Church of England over Prince Charles's remarriage. The Church is not on divorce, based on the fact that it is clear in its disapproval of remarriages while the first spouse is still alive. This is a matter which concerns those of us who are committed members of the Church of England and no one else. So-called "opinion formers" report.

House-buying rules

From the Chairman of the Home Charter Committee, Law Society of Northern Ireland

Sir, I refer to your leading article of July 28 on the Government's planned overhaul of house buying (see also letters, August 4).

Much has been made of the advantages of the Scottish system. Few have recognised the initiative taken by the Law Society of Northern Ireland for a quality-control scheme, launched by the previous Lord Chancellor two years ago.

Over 75 per cent of all solicitors in Northern Ireland belong to this Home Charter Scheme. The society monitors all members and examines a selection of files at random to determine if the rules of the scheme are being applied. These rules include records of interviews and correspondence with the client to ensure that he or she is regularly provided with progress reports.

All scheme members must use a particular form of contract requiring the seller, through his solicitor, to provide up-to-date searches and property certificates at the start of the transaction, to reduce delays in completion. Thus most of the present Government's concerns are already met in a scheme which is at this stage entirely voluntary.

Significantly the Council of Mortgage Lenders has yet to enter meaningful discussions on the operation of the scheme, but many of the council's members have recognised the importance of the initiative and given encouragement.

We view the discussions between the council and the English Law Society with concern, and very much fear that the result of the council's present proposals might be to provide a safety net in the form of solicitors' indemnity insurance for bad lending decisions.

Yours faithfully,
B. F. WALKER, Chairman,
Home Charter Committee,
Law Society of Northern Ireland,
Law Society House,
Victoria Street, Belfast,
August 4.

Kelly at the Tate

From Lord Renfrew of Kilmarnock, FBA, Master of Jesus College, Cambridge

Sir, "Dumbing down at the Tate" was the heading which you chose to introduce Simon Jenkins' unenthusiastic commentary (August 2) on the current Ellsworth Kelly exhibition at the Tate Gallery. But I wonder if that does justice to the power and the sophistication of Kelly's work? Indeed, may one not sense that your columnist has some general lack of enthusiasm for abstract art (since he condemns Mondrian in the same breath as Kelly)?

I happened to find the Ellsworth Kelly show the most enjoyable which I have seen at the Tate in over 40 years, and on a level of excellence with the

'Knee-jerk' headlines

From Mr Fritz Spiegl

Sir, Jim Brennan's article, "Classic A-level blunders" (Education, August 1), tells of the illiteracy and ignorance he encountered among examination candidates who think that "allowed" is spelt "aloud", and "their" and "there" are interchangeable. No doubt having been told at school that spelling was unimportant.

When children begin to read newspapers this idea is reinforced for them by boringly repetitive and supposedly punning knee-jerk headlines, such as "Altar ego" for stories about the Church, "Hurd insinuat" for the former Foreign Secretary, "The reel world" (for films and fishing), etc. For some mysterious reason sub-editors for the past decade or two have considered it hilarious to write "dane" for "days", "sols" for "souls", "ways" for "weigh" (and vice versa). Hardly "The write stuff" — which is a headline trotted out day after tedious day.

August 6) are only of consequence as individuals and committed members of the Church. If such they be

Yours sincerely,
JENNIFER SHARP
Arcadia, Folly Road,
Alfrick, Worcestershire,
August 7.

From Mr Duncan Heenan

Sir, How curious that the Prince of Wales's remarriage would plunge the Church of England into a crisis, but his continued adultery seemingly would not. Nelson may have understood such doctrine, but a generation looking for clear moral guidance and example does not.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN HEENAN,
The Llanegwad,
Clenagh Road, Sulby, Isle of Man,
August 6.

From the Archdeacon of Southwark

Sir, Church of England clergy who have divorced and remarried are allowed to continue their ministry in the Church. Why should there be a crisis in the Church of England if the Prince of Wales does the same?

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS BARTLES-SMITH,
14 Dog Kennel Hill,
East Dulwich, SE22.

From Mr M. J. Kerr

Sir, If, as the Archbishop states, the remarriage of the Prince of Wales would cause a crisis in the Church of England, the question is raised as to whether it is the Church or the Prince who should reconsider their position.

Yours etc,
M. J. KERR,
The Culver House,
Newnham-on-Severn,
Gloucestershire,
August 6.

From Miss Jennifer Drake-Brockman

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury should remember that the Church of England originated in a divorce and remarriage.

Yours sincerely,
JENNIFER DRAKE-BROCKMAN,
Ironstone Farmhouse,
Milton, Banbury, Oxfordshire,
August 6.

vide up-to-date searches and property certificates at the start of the transaction, to reduce delays in completion. Thus most of the present Government's concerns are already met in a scheme which is at this stage entirely voluntary.

Significantly the Council of Mortgage Lenders has yet to enter meaningful discussions on the operation of the scheme, but many of the council's members have recognised the importance of the initiative and given encouragement.

We view the discussions between the council and the English Law Society with concern, and very much fear that the result of the council's present proposals might be to provide a safety net in the form of solicitors' indemnity insurance for bad lending decisions.

Yours faithfully,
B. F. WALKER, Chairman,
Home Charter Committee,
Law Society of Northern Ireland,
Law Society House,
Victoria Street, Belfast,
August 4.

New York Museum of Modern Art's admirable Mondrian exhibition last year. In contemplating an unfamiliar art style, whose power lies in its very simplicity, it may take time for the eyes truly to see and the mind fully to register what is on offer.

In the past Simon Jenkins has often been effective in transmitting his enthusiasm for, instance in the field of architecture. But I wonder whether, in presenting 2,000 words written in such joyless vein about two of the great masters of abstract art, you are not instead merely "dumbing down" *The Times*.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN RENFREW,
The Master's Lodge,
Jesus College, Cambridge,
August 7.

I am told that this drive is actually taught as part of a nebulous university subject called "Media Studies". Even your own — increasingly long and still growing — headlines now often read like jocular crossword clues. No wonder the young are confused.

Yours faithfully,
FRITZ SPIEGL,
4 Windermere Terrace, Liverpool 8.

From Miss Celia Nash

Sir, I note from your *Crème de la Crème* section that employers frequently specify that they would prefer to employ secretarial staff educated to A-level, if not degree standard.

After reading Jim Brennan's article, I feel that this begs the question, "Why?"

Yours truly,
CELIA NASH,
1 Boleyn House,
13 Ship Street, Brecon, Powys,
August 1.

First-class cricket at every level

From Lord MacLaurin of Kilmarnock, Chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board

Sir, William Rees-Mogg ("Cricket", decline and fall", August 7) is misinformed in his contention that *Raising the Standard*, the England and Wales Cricket Board's plans for the restructuring of cricket reports and leading article, August 6, emphasises the one-day game. There is likely to be a marginal increase in the number of one-day games played. One-day cricket is very popular and now an essential element in the game's finances.

The true philosophy of *Raising the Standard* is that, unless we raise the level of play at every level — from school to the top of the professional — we will never have a nation.

The cricket of the country is underpinned by the county game, which produces the best players, and makes a contribution to producing the England Test sides. The ECB's new structure will also help to make the game more financially viable. None are at present.

Our plans call for raising the standards of coaching and for a much more disciplined approach to skills and fitness training. By slightly reducing the amount of four-day cricket played our top cricketers will have more time for coaching, skills and fitness training. The aim is better cricket.

Our proposed new structure is designed to deliver better cricket, better cricketers, draw bigger audiences, bring more money into the game and produce Test cricketers able to take on and beat the world.

There is no quick fix to solving the issues facing English cricket, but *Raising the Standard*, I believe, the right way forward.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MACLAURIN,
Chairman,
England and Wales Cricket Board,
Lord's Cricket Ground, NW8,
August 7.

From Mr Roger Tilbury

Sir, I disagree with your views ("A better game", leading article, August 6) — I think Lord MacLaurin's proposals will kill cricket stone dead in about ten years, but that is by the by — particularly your favouring of promotion and relegation. Can you not imagine the utterly boring cricket that would be played by a team struggling to avoid relegation?

It was when cricket was played at Weston-super-Mare (and Worthing, Hastings, Westcliff, Clifton, Ashby-de-la-Zouch etc) that people who had only one chance a year to do so went to see it. Nothing is more soul-destroying than playing (or watching) county cricket in virtually empty Test match arenas.

It should also be remembered that, 40 years ago, all counties played at least 28 first-class matches and Tests seemed a pleasant diversion rather than the be-all and end-all of cricket.

We also beat everybody else.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER TILBURY,
Flat 4, 80 Shepherd's Hill, N6,
August 7.

From Mr William Clarke

Sir, I enjoyed William Rees-Mogg's perceptive obituary of the classic game of cricket. But I failed to follow his logic in his assertion that the Australians usually win the Test matches against England but lose the one-day matches because they concentrate less on the skills of the latter and "come from a more competitive culture". What can be more competitive than the limited-over, one-day game?

While William was watching the giants at Weston-super-Mare, I was watching both the giants at Old Trafford (Jack Hobbs) last century in first-class cricket (1934) and the one-day matches in the Lancashire League between Nelson (with Laurie Constantine at his peak) and Colne. The contrast between the crowds and competitive passions of the latter with the leisurely pace of the county three-day matches was striking.

If, as Lord MacLaurin's report suggests, the future lies with the "one-day game and exciting play-offs", its progenitors, for good or ill, were Lancashire League cricket and Australian TV records.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM CLARKE,
37 Park Vista, Greenwich, SE18,
August 7.

Tests tossed away

From Mr Joe Mellen

Sir, Is it not time that the rules were changed regarding the decision to bat or bowl at the beginning of a Test match?

England have had a hard enough time this summer without being handicapped by losing the toss every single game.

Why not toss before the first Test match and thereafter take it in turns to make the decision? Wouldn't that be fairer?

Yours sincerely,
JOE MELLEN,
13 Langton Street, SW10,
August 8.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will visit India and Pakistan in October at the invitation of the Presidents of both countries.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Queen will arrive at Brodick Pier, Isle of Arran, at 11.30; will open Ormiston Park at 11.45; will have luncheon at Brodick Castle at 12.40 and will open the Visitor Centre, Isle of Arran Distillers at 2.55.

TOMORROW: Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend a service at St Peter's, Thurso, at 10.55, to mark the 75th anniversary of the Calfthess Federation of Scottish Women's Rural Institutes.

Service dinner

Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force

The Mayor of Lincoln, the City Sheriff and Brigadier P.B. Stevenson were the principal guests at the annual officers' dinner of the Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force held last night at Watgill Training Camp, North Yorkshire. Colonel R.A. Dickinson, Commandant, received the guests. Major A.D. McIntyre, P.M.C. presided.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon George Ivis and **Miss N.S.M. Reid**

The engagement is announced between George, eldest son of the late Lord Ivis, and Miss Reid, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Prichard, of Leicestershire.

Mr G. Rowe and **Miss S. Jackson**

The engagement is announced between G. Rowe, son of Mr and Mrs John Rowe, of Beech House, Upper Swainwick, near Bath, Avon, and the late Hon Mrs Jennifer MacDonald, of Serres, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Jackson, of Swainston Hill, Dunstable, Co. Meath.

Captain E.T. Boanas and **Miss J.C. Sutherland**

The engagement is announced between Captain Edward Boanas, Irish Guards, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Boanas, of Kent, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Sutherland, of Hampshire.

Mr W.D. Kelly and **Miss C.L. Pickles**

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr Patrick Kelly, of Banbury, and Mrs Naomi Kelly, of Southampton, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Pickles, of Lytham, Lancashire.

Anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: Isaac Walton, author of *The Compleat Angler*, Stafford, 1533; Thomas Telford, road, canal and canal builder, Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, 1757; George Payne James, novelist, London, 1799; Joseph Locke, civil engineer, Atherfield, Yorkshire, 1805; Jean Piaget, child psychologist, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 1896; Solomon, pianist, London 1902; Giles Cooper, playwright, Dublin, 1918; Philip Larkin, poet, Coventry, 1922.

DEATHS: Andrew Combe, physiologist, Edinburgh, 1847; Frederick Marryat, novelist, Langham, Norfolk, 1848; Sir Edward Frankland, chemist, Glogos, Norway, 1899; Roger Leonov, cosmonaut, Montecatini Terme, Italy, 1919; Ernst Haackel, naturalist, Jena, Germany, 1919; Sir Bernard Partridge, artist and cartoonist, London, 1945; Hermann Hesse, poet and novelist, Montagnod, Switzerland, 1962; Dmitri Shostakovich, composer, Moscow, 1975. Edward VII was crowned in Westminster Abbey after a six-week delay due to an emergency appendectomy, 1902. An atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki by the Americans, 1945. Singapore became independent, 1965. Gerald Ford became the 38th American President, 1974.

TOMORROW BIRTHS: Sir Charles Napier, soldier, London, 1782; Count Camillo di Cavour, Italian patriot, Turin, 1810; Charles Keene, artist, Hornsey, 1823; J. Scott Lidgett, theologian, London, 1854; Sir Almonro Wright, bacteriologist, Yorkshire, 1861; Laurence Binyon, poet, Lancaster, 1869; Herbert Hoover, 31st American President, 1929-33, West Branch, Iowa, 1874; Leo Fender, pioneer of the electric guitar, Anaheim, California, 1909.

DEATHS: Allan Ramsay, artist, Dover, 1784; John Wilson Croker, politician, London, 1857; Sir George Staunton, writer, London, 1859; Otto Lilienthal, pioneer aviator, Berlin, 1896; Oswald Veblen, mathematician, Maine, 1960; Sharon Tate, actress, murdered, Hollywood, 1969. King Charles II laid the foundation stone of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, 1675. The Smithsonian Institution was established at Washington by a bequest from James Smithsonian, an English scientist, to foster scientific research, 1846. Sir Henry Wood's first Promenade Concert was held at the Queen's Hall, London, 1895. The Japanese fleet defeated the Russians off Port Arthur, 1904.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:

Mr D.W. Astor, former chairman, CPRE, 54; Viscount Bangor, 49; Sir Philip Beck, former chairman, John Mowlem and Co, 63; Mr M.L. Bourdillon, Lord-Lieutenant of Powys, 73; Major Sir Peter Clarke, royal equestrian, 70; Professor Elizabeth Cutler, botanist, 68; Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, 65; Baroness Denington, 90; Captain Colin Farquharson of Whitehouse, Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, 74; Mr Jonathan Fry, chief executive, Burnham Castrol, 60; Miss Melanie Griffith, actress, 40; Sir Eric Howells, farmer, 64; Sir Alistair Hunter, diplomat, 61; Sir Christopher Laidlaw, company director, 75; Mr Rod Lever, tennis player, 59; Sir Frank Layfield, QC, 76; Mr Robert Malpas, chairman, Epsom, Surrey, and Karen Wilson, younger daughter of Mrs Jane Bell and the late Robert Bell, of Pooley, Renfrewshire, at St Mark's Church, Oldhall, Paisley.

The Rev P.E. Coomber

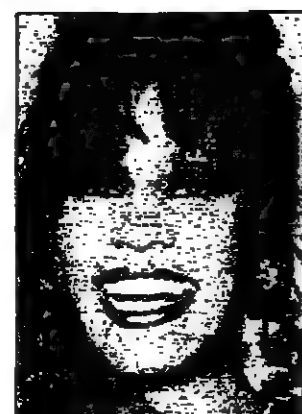
The engagement is announced between Paul, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs William Rich, of Egham, Surrey, and Joanne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Crook, of Grendall, Hampshire. Jonathan, P. von Schmidt and Miss L.J. Cobb

The engagement is announced

between John Peter, younger son of Jonker and Mrs Erik von Schmidt auf Altenstadt, of Chetesh, and Leanne Jacqueline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs George Cobb, of Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mr C.W. Smith and Miss I.M. Carlin

The marriage takes place today at St Bede's Church, Clapham Park, between Mr Colin Smith, elder son of Mr William Smith and the late Mrs Margaret Smith, and Miss Irene Carlin, elder daughter of the late Mr Pat Carlin and of Mrs Mary Carlin.



Whitney Houston, the singer, is 34 today; Dame Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, will be 57 tomorrow



Whitney Houston, the singer, is 34 today; Dame Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, will be 57 tomorrow

James's Place Capital, 66;

Lord Young of Darlington, 82

TOMORROW:

Mr John Aldis, conductor, 68; Miss Rosanna Arquette, actress, 38; Sir Frank Bowden, industrialist and landowner, 88; Dame Gillian Brown, former diplomat, 74; Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, 64; Sir Lawrence Lloyd, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 72; General Sir George Cooper, 72; Professor Alexander Goehr, composer, 65; Sir Alan Hardcastle, chairman, Lloyds

Regulatory Board, 64; Professor

A.L. Harris, clinical oncologist, 62; the Earl of Iwagh,

28; Mr Roy Keane, footballer, 20;

Mr Leonard Lickorish, former

director-general, British Tourist Authority, 76; Lord

Lisle, 94; Mr Paul Newlove, rugby

league player, 26; Miss Kate O'Mara, actress, 58; Sir

David Rowland, chairman of

Lloyds, 62; Lord Stewart, FBA, 62;

Miss Elizabeth Thomas, literary consultant, 78;

Mr Barry Unsworth, author, 67;

Mr Richard Wells, Chief Constable, South Yorkshire, 57.

Latest wills

Baroness Lloyd of Hampstead

of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, left estate valued at £425,012.

Enid Frances Jefferson, of Dorridge, Solihull, West Midlands

left estate valued at £2,300,843 net.

Denis James Suter, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

left estate valued at £1,610,087 net.

Phyllis Primrose Churchman

Warburg, of Yarnalls Hill, Oxford, left estate valued at £998,732 net.

Kenneth Watkins, of Harford, Ivybridge, Devon

left estate valued at £1,255,540 net.

He left £50,000 to the Woodland Trust

and £100,000 to the Woodland Trust, along with properties: Foli Plantation, Harford, Devon.

He also left shares in his

residuary estate to the same

organisation.

Joan Weston Wilding-Jones, of Maestlin, near Whitchurch, Shropshire

left estate valued at £1,312,507 net.

Archibald Norman Windeworth, of Dunchideock, Exeter, Devon

left estate valued at £1,237,653 net.

He left £100,000 to the Easter Bazaar fund.

Church services tomorrow

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN

8.15 S. Eucharist, 10.30 S. Eucharist, 12.15 S. Eucharist, 2.15 S. Eucharist, 4.15 S. Eucharist, 6.15 S. Eucharist.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL, 10.15 S. Eucharist

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Not Romani, Canon V. Paul: 5 E. Responses

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BIRMINGHAM CATH

PETER ASHMORE

of Brian *Three Sisters*, with Ralph Richardson, Celia Johnson, Margaret Leighton, Renée Asherson and Diana Churchill leading a superb cast that never quite became a *team*.

But there can be no doubts about the subtlety and power of the 1954 revival of *Hedda Gabler*, this time with Peggy Ashcroft giving even more nuance of Hedda, Alan Badel in full rhetorical flight as the ruined Ejler Løvborg, George Devine cherubically unaware as Tesman, and Michael Mac Liammóir created from Dublin to create a Judge Brack of satiric punctiliousness (on his first entrance, he shot his cuffs and made a swift salute, his forefinger touching the tip of his nose, so that a diplomat's politesse was tinged with schoolboy insolence).

In 1966 she was awarded a bursary for a year's sabbatical leave, with the opportunity to travel the world, demonstrating to the worldwide Anglican Community what Bishop Hall saw as the potential of women ordained in holy orders.

Jane Hwang believed that both women and men should be given the opportunity to serve the Lord in ministry.

her debut at the Wigmore Hall in 1930. Solo engagements followed and in 1937 she formed the Karaman Trio with Marjorie Hayward and Kathleen Markwell. Her colleague and friend the violinist Maria Lidka, described her playing as having 'above all great vigour, as well as deep tenderness, rock-solid rhythm, impeccable phrasing and absolute dedication to the composition'.

She married the pianist and organist Norman Greenwood in 1941. He was called up the day after their wedding, but on his return from service the two gave many recitals together, often broadcast by the BBC. During the war Butler was also one of the many

the pianist Richard Greenwood, to whom she was very close, and her great friend Maria Lidka, and in listening to them perform together.

Her son survives her.

spittoon: your bedroom presents even fewer attractions; if the house is old it will be low-ceilinged, small-windowed, dark, and irremediably stuffy. If the house be new, your room may be airier, but you will find it damp, noisy, distastefully upholstered, and cruelly decorated. As you rise from tavern to hotel the influence of the bar wakens, liquor ceases to be the dominating factor — nutrition and sleep become possible, though they are not made attractive. Who does not know the unvarying routine of a commercial inn? — the slab of unyielding bed, which, assisted with

There is an eminent divine who takes the road with his entire household in a fashion truly patriarchal. In the van, which is a roomy vehicle, drawn by two stout nags, travel his butler (who acts as cook, groom, valet, and engineer), his nurse, and two children. He himself rides with his wife on horseback. Every evening two tennis are run up. In one of which sleeps his reverence; in the other his major domo, while the van itself shelters the nurse and children. About them the horses are picketed, and a large dog roams for a menace to intruders. So they wander in great freedom and contentment through many a spring and summer holiday...

NEWS

Footballers face £750,000 bill

Three footballers accused of match rigging have been left with legal bills totalling nearly £750,000 even though they were cleared of all charges after a nine-week retrial.

John Fashanu, the England striker turned millionaire businessman, who declined to defend himself throughout the investigation and two trials, faces a £650,000 bill after the trial judge said he had brought suspicion on himself. Pages 1, 5, 21

Princess avoids the speculation

Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday put the speculation about her private life behind her and flew to Bosnia to concentrate on her public role, visiting victims of landmines. Page 1

Major revival

John Major is planning a brief but lucrative comeback on the world stage. Page 1

Weather conundrums

Freckish weather divided Britain in two, with ruined holidays in some places and record temperatures in others. Page 1

Glimmer of hope

The threat of beheading for two British nurses in Saudi Arabia receded after an Australian court's ruling. Page 3

Yachtsman's bravery

A woman whose car plunged into a marina, trapping her 20 ft under water, was saved by a yachtsman who dived in with an aqualung and forced oxygen into her mouth as he freed her. Page 3

Churches falling

Clergy and congregations are failing to help a new generation to find God, according to Dr George Carey. Pages 8, 12

Female chimps know their place

Female chimpanzees are not as docile and egalitarian as they appear. Behind the net curtains of chimp society, they are as interested in social status as any housewife on an executive estate, with a clearly defined hierarchy. Pages 16, 21

Pass rates up again

A-level pass rates are expected to rise again, fuelled by a doubling of modular papers. Page 6

Deer poachers

Highland gamekeepers are introducing 24-hour watches to combat deer shootings. Pages 7, 20

Couple cleared

A wealthy American couple who spent seven months in a Caribbean jail were acquitted of murder in St Vincent. Page 11

Heavy landing

Vasil Tsibilyev, the outgoing commander of the crippled Russian space station Mir, faces heavy criticism. Page 14

Aga Khan backs out

The Aga Khan is withdrawing his investment in the Costa Smeralda rich people's Sardinian playground, Italian newspapers reported. Page 16



The Studley Royal water gardens, transformed into a pleasure garden in the 18th-century style, will be open to the public this evening

OPINION

One hundred days: There was a time when political eras were measured in decades or at least the length of an administration. In the soundbite era a stretch of 14 weeks is deemed sufficient for celebration. Page 21

Crying foul: So long as footballers can act as consultants to gambling organisations, suspicions of a conflict of interest can arise. Page 21

COLUMNS

Max Beloff: Compared with the threatened destruction of the unity of the kingdom, playing around with the House of Lords might be seen as a minor folly. But it illustrates the shallowness of the whole current approach to reform. Page 20

Clive Aslet: Country people fear mentality differences they see between themselves and Westminster. Page 20

BUSINESS

United Utilities: Further institutional unrest emerged at the water and electricity utility in the Northwest. Page 25

Woolwich: The Woolwich could face paying thousands of pounds of compensation if a legal action proposed by the disgruntled son of a shareholder in the newly converted bank is successful. Page 25

SPORT

Cricket: England were 188 for four in reply to Australia's first innings 427 in the fifth Test. Page 42

Athletics: Jonathan Edwards, finishing second in the triple jump, won Britain's fourth silver medal in Athens. Page 40

LIFE

Edinboro festival: "Twenty years ago, people really did shout 'Get down to Venue 82, man: there's an Estorion Trolis that will blow your mind'." But no longer, says Richard Morrison. Page 16

Wide thing: Peter Hall's *An Ideal Husband* is back in the West End. Page 18

SECTIONS

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Weekend

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That's shobiz Page 10

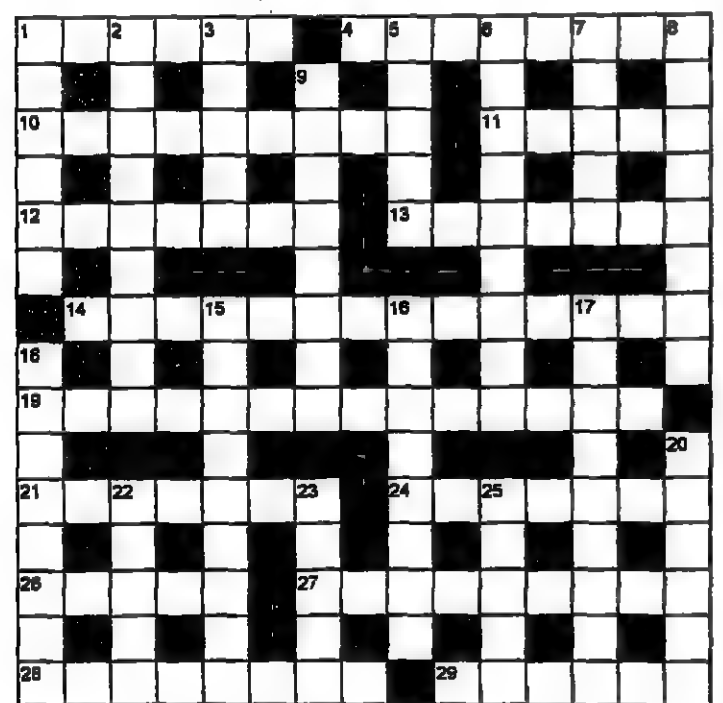


Shock opera: Modern opera's conventions Page 4
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,554

A £30 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS**
- Leading lady's crime (6).
 - Careless mistakes by carrier (8).
 - Financial manager, having to negotiate endlessly with money-lender, losing head (9).
 - To depose king initially creates stir (5).
 - Spots group of soldiers retreating when it's taken over (7).
 - Detective's bloomer (7).
 - Don't be offended - advice to curate at breakfast? (4,2,4,4).
 - Here tiny cattle roam - so we hear (3,7,4).
 - It's a mistake entrusting money to Australian boundary (7).
 - Clever use of ball steals set back (3,4).
 - Frequently front of cushion comes off (5).
 - Lost trousers have finally turned up (9).
 - Poison inside pleasing round container (8).
 - Rebuffed admirer's temperature beginning to rise (6).
- DOWN**
- Flora's young man carrying towel (6).
 - Dog running amok in tea garden (5,4).
 - Notes and letters from abroad I start in cumulate (5).
 - Poetic performance from player since ignoring the odds (5).
 - Doctor's assistant Eugene and Edward put in picture, briefly (9).
 - Beautiful woman appearing on current occasion (5).
 - Set off from college in time (8).
 - It's likely one's inside? Right (8).
 - Site meant for redevelopment as a cafe (9).
 - False teeth are readily available (2,1,5).
 - What translates into "tapes"? (9).
 - Persistent objections raised to 50% of boys joining navy (8).
 - The purpose of camping (6).
 - One's employed in a pub to sell one short (5).
 - Some clearer announcers broadcast again (5).
 - Saw international banker (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,548

Solution to Puzzle No 20,553

JAMSBREAKER ANNA
Q I E B M A E B
R E C I T A L A G E S
Y K O D C A L O
S L E E P I N G I T U L
R M E L A R G U
I N E L E G A N T I O N
S H E S E B
T A I N T R E D O U B L E S
U I T O L E M
C O M M O N W E A L T H
U N R U N E I B
C L A P B O R D E R L I N E
E V O I A K N
L A N D Y C H A T T E R L E Y

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A O B E R D
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U I T O Y A D V
N O A S A R K I N T O I O
S H E M E
O P T I C S V I C T O R I A
R O O S D E N
D O M I N I C A N M A C A O
E B D O L E I B
R I O N A R I S O L E I T O
S H R C H E A D
L A N Y C H A T T E R L E Y

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: D Bates, Henham, Northumberland; B Tate, Harburn, Stockton-on-Tees; P E Docherty, London; S L Bickmore, Highcliffe, Dorset; D Goy, Woodley, Leeds

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY
Sun rises: 5.37 am
Moon sets: 10.58 pm
11.55 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 5.38 am
Moon sets: 10.59 pm
11.56 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY
London Bridge 06:20
Aberdeen 06:30
Ayr 06:40
Belfast 06:50
Birmingham 07:00
Bristol 07:10
Cardiff 07:20
Dundee 07:30
Edinburgh 07:40
Glasgow 07:50
Liverpool 08:00
Manchester 08:10
Newcastle 08:20
Plymouth 08:30
Portsmouth 08:40
Reading 08:50
Sheffield 09:00
Southampton 09:10
Stirling 09:20
Trafalgar 09:30
Warrington 09:40
Wolverhampton 09:50
York 10:00

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: London 21C; Lowest day temp: Forth 10C; Highest night temp: London 10C; Lowest night temp: Forth 5C.

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FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a mostly fine, hot day with an early fog soon clearing. However, it will be very humid inland with one or two isolated thunderstorms late in the day. The coastal fringes will be a little cooler. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be much more cloudy with showers of rain, although the south-eastern fringes should have a little warm sunshine, and it may clear up in the far North West. Tonight, any thunder showers will die out to leave England and Wales fine, but uncomfortably muggy with some fog patches by dawn. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be rather cloudy with a little rain in central and northern areas.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

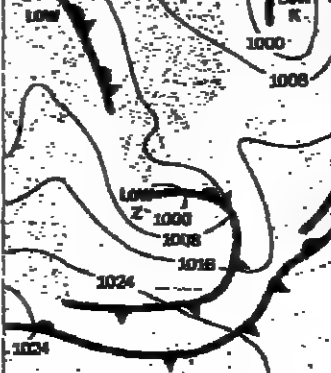
94 hrs to 5 p.m. b=brilliant; c=cloudy; d=drizzle; f=fog; g=gale; h=heavy; l=light; m=moderate; n=night; o=overcast; r=rain; s=sunny; t=thunder; w=wind; x=unknown; y=yellow; z=zebra

Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Aberdeen	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Angus	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Armagh	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Belfast	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Birmingham	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Bristol	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Buckingham	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Cardiff	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Chichester	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Colchester	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Conwy	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Cornwall	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Dorset	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Edinburgh	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Exeter	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Falmouth	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Farnham	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Fife	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Glasgow	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Gloucester	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Guernsey	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Hastings	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Hereford	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Hull	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Isle of Wight	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Leeds	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Leicester	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9

ABROAD

Algeria	28.8	18.2	28.8	18.2
Algeria	28.8	18.2	28.8	18.2
Algeria	28.8	18.2	28.8	18.2
Algeria	28.8	18.2	28.8	18.2
Algeria	28.8	18.2	28.8	18.2
Algeria	28.8	18.2	28.8	18.2
Algeria	28.8	18.2	28.8	18.2
Algeria	28.8	18.2	28.8	18.2
Algeria	28.8	18.2	28.8	18.2
Algeria	28.8	18.2	28.8	18.2

TEMPERATURES AT MIDNIGHT LAST ON THURSDAY. X = NOT AVAILABLE



CHANGES TO THE CHART ABOVE FROM NOON: LOW K WILL MOVE NORTH AND FILL; HIGH J WILL MOVE EAST AND DECLINE AS LOW Z TRANSFERS EAST WITH LITTLE CHANGE IN CENTRAL PRESSURE

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SATURDAY AUGUST 9 1997

For a blue-collar syndicate, shooting grouse is about love, not money. Walter Ellis celebrates the Glorious Twelfth



Not just for big shots

Lords, or at least tenants, of all they survey, the lads of the Dartmouth Syndicate stride purposefully over the moors, their dogs at their heels, eyes peeled for vermin. They have work to do: grit to lay down, traps to check, butts to repair. Steve Hirst, the gamekeeper, bends to examine the heather, rubbing the young shoots between finger and thumb, testing it for freshness, and assesses the much coarser third-year growth for its suitability as cover.

Overall, he is satisfied with progress. The season is shaping up nicely, without any of the heightened sense of urgency usually associated with the run-up to the Glorious Twelfth. On grouse moors elsewhere, the gentry in their tweeds and the corporate guns in their Barbour will have itchy trigger fingers, desperate for the honour next Tuesday of bringing down the first bird. But here, in Cupwith Moor (pronounced Cypith), about 1,300ft above the mill villages of West Yorkshire, August 12 is just

another day. September is when the Dartmouth shoot can hope for its harvest and, if they are lucky, the total bag will come to about 15 brace, 30 birds, each destined for the pot. This is a blue-collar syndicate, not afraid to get its hands dirty. Howard Copley, a somewhat stern-faced 25-year-old, is shoot captain, charged with coordinating the guns and organising the annual sport. During the week, he works as a butcher at a nearby supermarket where, he says — almost surprised by the question — there's not much call for grouse. Howard is a man with a mission, proud of what he has become. One quickly senses that it is here, on the open heath, that he feels most himself and most at home.

By Howard's side, Steve, looking like a shorter version of

Bruce Grobbelaar minus the pony tail, is the man who taught him everything he knows. Steve works for a Huddersfield engineering firm, making valves, but races home every evening so that he can change into his gamekeeper's gear and head for the hills.

Like Howard, he stresses the conservation role of the shoot. He reels off the names of the moorland birds for which they provide a habitat: meadow pipits, skylarks, curlews, redshanks, golden plover. He is particularly proud of a pair of short-eared owls that has taken up residence, and of the arrival, so far unconfirmed, of a peregrine falcon. "They'll take a few of us chicks," he adds cheerfully in the familiar *Last of the Summer Wine* dialect of the region. "But that's nature, isn't it? There's enough up here for

all on us." Steve's son, Matthew, aged eight, is obviously delighted to be out on the moor with his dog. He and young Scott Lawton, whose dad, Martin, works as a sparky in the local power station, represent the next generation and already know every inch of the shoot.

The group secretary is Steve "Bronco" Holden, a genial, thickset man in his thirties, fond of a hamburger in the pub, who doubles as a plumber and general builder in nearby Slaithwaite. Born and raised over the county border in Cheshire, he came into shooting via fishing with his dad and now (whisper it) lists deerstalking among his more audacious pursuits.

Each man is keenly aware of the revolution that has taken

place in the syndicate over the past 20 years. "I can remember when I was a kid, it was the doctor, the solicitor, the village professionals, who kept the shoot going," says Glen Dolan, a meat-trade worker. "The gamekeeper was one of the tenant farmers. It was a totally different carry-on to what it is now. The best thing about it now is the chat."

Not all traditions have been jettisoned. Strict decorum is maintained when the guns are out. Anyone who shoots across the line, endangering the lives of others, is ordered off the moor. What is missing is any sense of class superiority. Members concentrate on the business in hand, targeting wild birds that can weave towards them at speeds of more than 50mph. "Some get away and some don't," says Bronco,

squinting down the length of his arm. "Depends if you've got your eye in. We don't go in for champagne or wine or anything fancy like that. We shoot till dinner time [shortly after midday] and break for a sandwich before carrying on till three. Then we go to the pub for a pint and a bowl of stew."

Shoots are days out for the entire community. Friends and family, some still employed in the one functioning mill, turn up to assist as beaters and flankers, driving the grouse towards the guns. At the end of the day, everyone is given £5 and a meal for their trouble. Any spare grouse are handed over to local farmers for their indulgence over the year.

"Aren't the guns rather expensive?" I ask, thinking of the small fortunes some people pay for a Purdey or a Holland &

Holland. "About £150 to £1,000 is as much as any of us ever paid," Howard says. "It isn't the gun as counts, it's the man behind it," Steve smiles.

Years ago, as Glen remembered, the present Dartmouth Syndicate would have been the sort of people who Lord Dartmouth's grandfather would have employed as beaters, driving his grouse towards the guns. The idea that they might have joined the shoot — as equals, by God — would have struck the earl as an offence against nature. Even today, grouse shooting is lodged in the public mind much as a gamekeeper is lodged within the gates of a stately home — as a traditional component of aristocratic privilege.

The president of the Game Conservancy Trust is Gerald Grosvenor, the Duke of Westminster, who numbers 22,500 acres of grouse moor in Lancashire among his assets. Chairing the same body is Earl Peel, who is also on the board of the Countryside Alliance and the

Continued on page 2

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There's nothing like a young woman with a grouse moor behind her to set a man's heart a flutter, Joanna Pitman discovers

The pull of the Grouse Babes

The Glorious Twelfth, that fixed high point of the British summer for the rich and landed and those who mingle among them, seems to be thriving despite the scent of anti-blood sports militancy in the air. But this year's Twelfth is going to be a little bit less glorious than usual for the nation's unattached guns. They are going to be one babe short.

With the marriage and retirement as self-styled "grouse babe" last month of 30-year-old Rosie Nickerson, a crackshot whose inheritance includes a highly desirable grouse moor at Swaledale in North Yorkshire, the tally of most eligible "Daughters Of" — young women whose daddies own thousands of acres of windy, rainswept grouse moors — is reduced to just 29.

For most people, free access to a grouse moor would be a well, nice for picnics, kite-flying, breezy walks, that sort of thing. But then, most of us were probably not brought up on the top of a moor, snuffling around as a toddler among gamekeepers and dead birds, or wielding a 28-bore shotgun at the age of eight or nine.

For those who were, the mention of grouse and moors brings a strange, faraway gleam to the eye. For young men who have had a go at rabbits and pheasants, the call of the grouse is by far the greatest challenge, and the prospect of "marrying a moor" can turn an otherwise sensible chap into a glutinous, fawning fool.

Daughters Of, who can give access to — or even occasionally ownership of — a moor, are highly sought after. The love lives of such young misses as Elizabeth Anne Nicholson-Fletcher, Iona Stuart Forthingham, Lady Iona Peel, Lady Tamara Grosvenor, the Hon Rosie Sutherland and the Roberts sisters, whose daddies all own grouse moors, can be known to come to full flower quicker than for those whose daddies don't.

When Rosie was 17, for example, she was proposed to by a shooting man who fell into a state of thrilled obeisance as soon as he discovered that she came with moors attached. She turned him down.

Elizabeth Anne, 19 years old and cooking for a living, has a healthy attitude towards her heathery assets. "Most of my boyfriends know the shooting form: actually, most of them have known how to shoot



Lucinda Roberts (left), "Daughter Of" the Conistone shoot in North Yorkshire, and the changing look of the grouse moor fashions of casual 1997 (centre) and formal 1952.



The prospect of 'marrying a moor' can turn a sensible chap into a glutinous, fawning fool

pretty well. I've probably met all of them through shooting parties or through friends of my brothers, all of whom shoot. It's easier if they know the form, because I'm a keen shot and I would like my boyfriends to be able to enjoy it too.

"What happens is, you meet someone and you start going out with them, and then much later on when you mention it, their eyes light up, and they say, 'Oh, so you've got a grouse moor, have you?' Although it's quite nice that we have one, I don't tend to shout about it. I don't say, 'Oh, Daddy's got a grouse moor' or anything like that. I let them find out later and, when they do discover, they usually want to come and stay."

Elizabeth Anne's father owns 7,500 acres of grouse moor in Inverness-shire, and the four children have been brought up to consider shooting grouse to be as natural a pastime as swimming or playing ping-pong. "I started when I was nine," she says. "All my brothers were shooting and it was the most natural thing for me to do, too. I shot rabbits

first, then pheasant, but it took me a while to get my eye in. I had a 4.10, a single-barrelled gun, to start on, and I remember my brothers teasing me all the time.

"There was one really good day when my brothers stood on either side of me and behind, assuming I would miss all the birds. The first one came over and I got it. Then two more came over and I got a right and a left. The boys were shouting that it was a fluke, but the third came over very high and somehow I got that one, too. So that was when I proved myself.

"I was 14 when I shot my first grouse and I've never missed a Glorious Twelfth since. I'm usually the only girl in the line so I get lots of attention. When my brothers come up with their girlfriends, most of whom can't shoot, I can go out with the boys and have them all to myself. That's great fun. With four brothers I've always counted myself as one of the boys."

Ever ready to stomp miles across moors in all weathers, equipped with the sort of megaphonic voice that can cut through force-ten gales, and a crackshot

herself, Elizabeth Anne is unlikely to end up marrying a cardigan-clad stamp collector. For this is the time of year when the heathery, feathery plumage of Elizabeth Anne and her 28 fellow babes becomes most attractive and they find themselves intensely fêted and grovelled to.

Despite being gussied up in the all-weather kit, a distinctly unromantic costume of scratchy tweed plus-twins, thick woollen stockings, heavy leather-lined boots and layers of thick jumpers, they end up having to fight off the attentions of dapper male suitors with guns.

Iona Stuart Forthingham, 27, and a Daughter Of a Perthshire shooting family, rather enjoys the courting rituals and has had plenty of opportunities to get cosy in the butts with the boys. "I've been going out all my life on the family moor with the guns, but I used to help carry a game bag or just be a hanger-on. It never occurred to me to shoot, because girls just didn't do it, really. I used to meet plenty of nice guys in the butts, though, and we always had lots of time to get to know each other, although we weren't meant to talk too loudly because that disturbs the birds."

Devotees of the codes and conventions of moorland love affairs will have noticed the use of the phrase "girls just didn't do it, really". Quite a lot of Daughters Of don't actually shoot, either because (understandably) they can't stand the blood, they don't like the painful recoil of the gun on the shoulder, it's too cold and wet, or they have simply been discouraged from picking up a gun by an old-fashioned father.

Lucinda Roberts, a twenty-some-

thing Daughter Of the Conistone shoot in North Yorkshire, and described in society magazines as a "bubbly extrovert blonde who works in marketing in London", told *The Field*: "It's a fairy-tale idea, standing with a gorgeous Heathcliffe type in a butt while he's slaying grouse."

But don't try bandying grouse-babe niceties with Lucinda or inquiring about her gorgeous boyfriends this week: she's not playing. "Oh, I don't want to talk about that any more. You've caught me in Greece, actually. I'm on holiday and anyway I don't shoot grouse."

Beth Peel, who shoots every year on the Peel family moors north of Skipton in Yorkshire, says that women ought to be encouraged to have a go if they want to — and if they learn properly.

"Women are often better at it than men, because they have better hand-to-eye co-ordination. Women used to shoot as much as men during the Victorian period; it's only in the past 100 years or so that women guns have been frowned

on by men. Perhaps it's the competition that worries them." Nevertheless, Iona's sister doesn't do it and Iona herself was never encouraged, even though her father, a keen shot, declared for years that whoever she married would have to be able to shoot and reel.

Eventually, Iona taught herself how to shoot. "I was about 18 and I just decided that I wanted to have a go myself. A boyfriend at the time who has a moor in Peebleshire helped me to get a gun and got me going. Now I shoot regularly at home. I didn't find it difficult at all at the beginning. I'm told I have a good eye. It was rather satisfying, really, going out with all the men and standing up for myself for the first time."

"I mostly shoot at home on Strathbraan and I really enjoy it, although I'm not particularly good. I need someone standing beside me, and, of course, being a girl, I don't get as much practice as the boys. I'm not brilliant, but I am keen. I've been out shooting on the Twelfth every year since 1990, and I get a little bit better each time. I'm quite keen to be as good as a man."

Iona, tactically sharp in the use of her moorland assets, is due to shrug off the grouse-babe label next May when she marries Christopher Boyle. "We met at the Caledonian Ball at the Grosvenor House Hotel, and he is a keen shot. I hope he's not marrying me for my moor. I don't think he is."

Robert Miller, the Hong Kong-based duty-free tycoon who bought Gunnerside — 35,000 acres of grouse moor in North Yorkshire — for close to £10 million in 1995, has seen his daughters married off most satisfactorily, although, judging by their spouses, the thrill of the duty-free assets may have exceeded the thrill of the moors. Pia has married Christopher Getty, Marie-Chantal has married Crown Prince Pavlos of Greece and Alexandra has married Prince Alexander von Fürstberg.

None of the daughters shoots and it is doubtful that any of their husbands do either, but perhaps Miller should begin to insist they do. After all, the last thing any grouse father wants is to hand his precious heathery moors to non-shooting heirs, who might just sell off all the woodland for timber and level the moors for a new international airport.

'There's a solidarity. Nothing will make us give up the life we love'

Continued from page 1

British Field Sports Society, where his colleagues include the Earl of Stockton, Lord "Beano" Mancroft and Lord Steel, a wine connoisseur and former Liberal Democrat leader. Viscount Whitelaw, like many old-school Conservatives, is a keen shot. His accidental wounding of Sir Joseph Nickerson during a shoot in 1984 has not dampened his enthusiasm.

Ronnie Capel Cure, an Old Etonian of Blake Hall, in Essex, is one of the latest men on the circuit. Once, when shooting with the Duke of Buccleuch, he snatched a passing grouse out of the air, prompting the duke's keeper to remark the following year: "Will ye be shooting them or catching them this year, sir?"

For generations the upper classes have thought of grouse moors as their particular domain, reserved to them as of right. Yet shooting has become, an almost prohibitively expensive business, so much so that even Earl Peel — "a big shooting man," say friends — felt



The grouse: target of a sporting desire

obliged two years ago to sell his 32,000 acres at Gunnerside, North Yorkshire, to Robert Miller, the retailing tycoon, for close to £10 million.

A day's sport on a high-profile moor, such as Gunnerside, can command more than £1,000, restricting shooting in the main to landowners, stockbrokers, super-market tycoons and ageing rock stars.

Not so in Cupwith. Here, where the main title on display

is the *Angling Times* in someone's back pocket, cash disposed of is more modest. A full gun membership of the Dartmouth Syndicate costs £400, entitling the holder to a likely six days shooting a year — just two for grouse, the others for pheasant and duck.

The money raised is used to maintain the 1,500 acres that are the syndicate's sole responsibility under the terms of the lease. Grit has to be put down at regular intervals so that the grouse have the grounds in which to break down the heather and bilberries that comprise their sole adult diet. On occasions, medicated grit, treated to guard against digestive infections, has to be employed, but, at £72 a bag, it can be used only sparingly.

Heather is the prime concern. Without its conservation a grouse moor will degenerate within a few years. Bracken takes over and turns the landscape into a knee-deep jungle, alive with ticks. Game birds vanish, along with the curlews and redshanks, the foxes and hares. The alternative, turning the moor over to sheep, ensures only a bleak expanse of bare peat on which nothing grows.

"People imagine moorlands happen naturally," Steve Hirst says. "They don't realise they have to be managed."

He is scornful of a decision by Bradford Metropolitan Council to halt grouse shooting on Ilkley Moor, about 30 miles to the north. "They don't approve of us shooting grouse. What they want is conservation, they say. But you watch. The rot will start off with mountain-biking and rambling. Next, the kids'll move in with motorbikes, churning it up. Then the bracken and the predators will start to appear. Before you know it, there'll be nowt worth conserving."

Over the brow of the hill, about half a mile distant, Cupwith descends gently to a peat-rich stream, beyond which lie meadows (known locally as "intake") grazed by sheep and cattle. Part of the moor adjacent to the syndicate land was fenced off last year to provide further intake and is already changing its character. The shoot captain and his lads do not complain about this, but they are not happy either. The moor to them is part of their heritage, to be enjoyed by young and old, and the idea that the farming industry, which already over-



Four members of the Dartmouth Syndicate on Cupwith Moor — plenty of grit and not a tweed suit among them

the last word puzzles them. The working class of Yorkshire's West Riding have had it hard for centuries. In the hollows of the hills, mill chimneys jut into the skies, flanked by serried rows of stone halls in which the worst wealth of England was made. They can be picturesque but, at their peak in the late-Victorian age, these were Blake's satanic mills, employing thousands of workers for a pittance while creating fortunes for the mill owners.

It is ironic that the Labour Party, for which West Yorkshire voted overwhelmingly, should now pose the greatest threat to these working men in their expanded leisure time. Syndicate members are deeply concerned about the Government's support for an anti-hunting Bill and find themselves in alliance with the Conservative-dominated British Field Sports Society in defence of their interests.

It was the employer class, acquiring land and titles, who first built up the grouse moors. But as the mills have closed and the big houses have one by one been turned into hotels and conference centres, working men (very few women) and landowners have discovered a common cause. Today, several



The way it was: the "guns" of 1911 and their bag after a good day's shoot in Yorkshire

workers' syndicates thrive in Yorkshire, with others in Lancashire and Wales, and all must work in harmony with their landlords. This being Britain, where money talks at least as loudly as class, there are, so far, no mixed-class shoots, but if there were a competition for best shoot there is no certainty the toffs and their nouveau riche friends would win.

In the Rose and Crown, up the hill from Slithwaite, the lads sup their pints after a Sunday morning on the moor. Over and over they stress the

role of the community in what they do. A deal has been done with the National Trust, which cuts their heather for them and distributes the seeds across its own, more barren land. The local Colne Valley Beagles, hunting on foot, are invited on to the moor from time to time to keep down the foxes. And the two groups and the local farmers muck in to tackle heathland fires.

"It's not like it's us and them," says Mark Ward, a security guard from nearby Marsden. "It doesn't matter who you are or what you do; round

ere everyone's the same." "Aye," says Martin Lawton, an electrician, who joined the syndicate only last year. "The day we watched Princess Anne up at game fairs in Castle Ashby, were as close as we came to ruling class."

What, though, of the alleged cruelty and the destruction of wild creatures? The question hangs in the air, refracted uneasily through several pints of Ward's Sheffield ale.

"I tell you," says Chris Foulds, who moved to the area from Bradford 15 years ago and now runs a local garage,

FACT FILE

BRITAIN has 459 grouse moors. The season begins on August 12 and ends on December 10 (November 30 in Northern Ireland).

The outlook this year is good. In England, more than 70 per cent of moors show an increase in grouse density compared with last year. On some Scottish moors there is a small decrease, but on others north of the Border there are substantially more grouse than last year. In Wales, small increases are apparent, but grouse numbers are depressed, because of low stocks and chick survival.

To shoot driven grouse will cost up to £70 a brace, and up to £30 a brace for walked grouse. Last year, the direct expenditure generated by driven grouse shooting was £14.7 million.

The average annual bag in Scotland is 250,000; 450,000 for Britain as a whole, although the number of grouse shot on managed moors has fallen by an average of 40 per cent over the past 40 years.

Vintage years for red grouse were 1912, 1934, 1963, 1965 and 1974, although there were regional variations. The worst year was 1917, after the parasitic gutworm *Trichostrongylus tenuis*, poor weather and disease took their toll.

PORTIA COLWELL
Information supplied by the Game Conservancy Trust.

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Putting on the glitz

Designers are setting the high street alight with the latest sequinned and shiny fabrics.

Heath Brown joins the glitter band

Adding a bit of sparkle to your life could not be easier this autumn: the clothes rails of designer boutiques and high-street chains are positively glowing with Lurex-shot fabrics, iridescent suiting and glittering, shimmering, sequinned delights.

And it's not just evening-wear that gets to shine. Cozy cardigans are enlivened with metallic threads, simple T-shirts are coated and burnished to reflect and dazzle, and sequin and diamanté details give a touch of glamour to basic skirt shapes. There is also a touch of the unexpected: wet-look materials in evening gowns, Lurex threadwoven into new-age disco outfits and more subtle shot stripes added to knits. Everything, it seems, has that added wrinkle in an attempt to brighten up the onset of autumn.

"The exciting thing is that Lurex has been incorporated into the everyday wardrobe," says Gail Castinir, the chief designer at Etam. "The Nineties is about adding a bit of sparkle to life."

Technological innovations have made the look more possible for day and night, as the threads have become more comfortable to wear. Gone are the days of scratchy, heavy dust-printed fabrics and gold threads that were so popular with Seventies glam rockers and disco divas; today's new softened sparkly synthetics are now mixed with natural fibres for a more skin-friendly feel.

"You don't have to suffer to shine out in fashion today," says Lucille Lewin of Whistles, which stocks a wide selection of metallic looks, subtle sequinned tops and Lurex-shot knits. "Shiny fabrics are now more comfortable, easier to wear and can therefore be worn all day long." The look, she explains, is an extension of the shiny nylon fashions so popular last year, but with a touch of glamour, emphasising subtle sheens over over-glam glitz.

Because of its subtlety, she says, the look is one that will last well into autumn, to spice up a plain outfit or add glamour for evening. Yarns that were once used for evening wear — especially at Christmas — are now being mixed and matched for day-



time use. They are also an ideal foil to a dull suit, hinting at glamour, but not proving too glitzy. When mixed with this season's slushy colours, its effect is even more subtle: a series of Lurex stripes within a dark olive or brown knit is hardly disco fever, but will lift an otherwise dull ensemble.

The trick, as all the buyers point out, is to go for subtlety: don't overdo it and you will truly shine.

ABOVE: Gold line-knit cardigan, from a selection, £35 Warehouse (0171-278 3491); Long charcoal metallic satin dress, £450, Pein Sud, Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1, and selected branches nationwide (0171-487 4484); Shoes, £66, Red or Dead, branches nationwide (0114-273 7827).

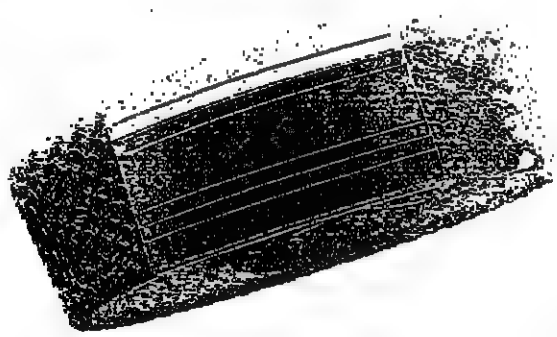


ABOVE: Pupa's their butterfly-knit £10, deep blue metallic cardigan, £27 Warehouse as above.

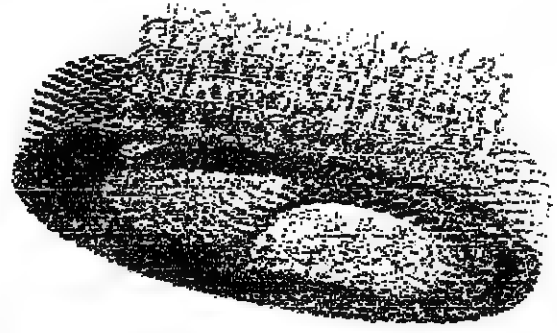
Mannequins by Richard Burns, Birmingham; Martin Bedall, Manchester; Sarah Gottschalk, London; Gail Castinir, Etam; and Amandip Uppal.

THREE OF A KIND

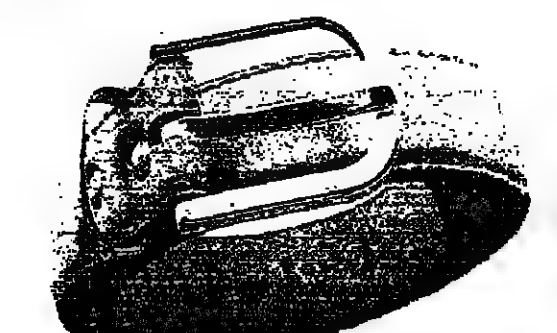
What better way to emphasise hipsters and bronzed midriffs than the glitz of a golden belt? Here are three of the best. H.B.



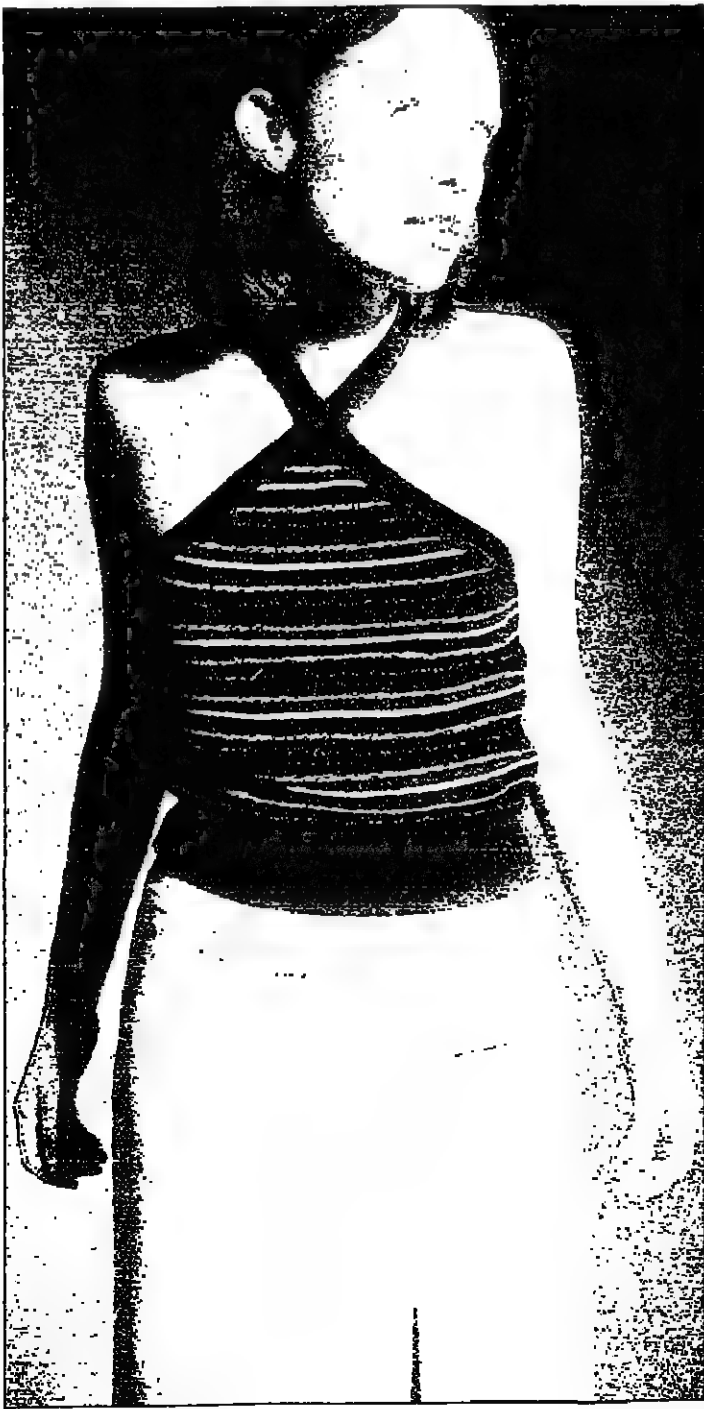
Gold scale belt, £24.95, Otto Glarc, Fenwicks (0181-365 1711)



Fine gold mesh belt, £79.95, Harrods (0171-730 1234)



Gold leather belt, £24.95, Fenwicks (as above)



LEFT: Black and silver halterneck top, £29.99, pale grey PVC skirt, £49.99, both at, 123 Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-907 4411); **RIGHT:** Gold line-knit vest, £16, Etam branches nationwide (0171-484 7739); Red or Dead trousers, £110, Whistles, as above; Black patent ankle boots, £275, Gina, 169 Sicca Street, SW1 (0171-235 2332)



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Perfume without the pest

Breeding has rid classic English roses of the need for all that pruning and spraying, Stephen Anderton writes

Poor old roses, they can get such a bad press. Say roses to an ecologically-minded gardener and he or she immediately thinks of pests and diseases and spraying. Say roses to a novice gardener and up come intimidating rules about pruning and dead-heading. But say roses to a rose lover and the reaction is ecstasy. So what is the reality?

A rose lover will talk about the beauty of the flower, the shape of the bud, the way the petals are arranged and the perfume. Press him and he will talk about matters slightly less vital, such as the length of flowering season, how the flowers resist rain and how the plant resists mildew and blackspot. In other words, highly bred roses are "florists' flowers", like dahlias and auriculas, bred for the detailed quality of bloom.

David Austin, a rose breeder in Wolverhampton who has created a new race of "English roses", admits that roses are florists' flowers, but defends them as such and does not want to see the tradition of rose breeding lost in a frenzy of ecocorrection.

Mr Austin has done much to restore the position of the rose in gardens in recent years. He has worked to pull the best qualities of the old roses — character and quality of bloom and perfume — back into mainline breeding and to create new healthy, repeat-flowering and shapely bushes.

When I visited his nursery in June it was only hours after a torrential rainstorm, yet his roses looked astonishingly good. His nursery contains nothing but roses, if you discount the dwarf box and

GROWING TIPS

■ Give your plants humus — and more humus. Use plenty of well-rotted manure or compost at planting time, and as an annual mulch. Roses enjoy heavy soils but with the addition of plenty of manure they can be made to thrive, even on light and sandy earth.

■ Plants growing strongly suffer fewer pests and diseases, so feed well and water regularly.

■ Roses often thrive in one garden and not in another, for various reasons. If a rose refuses to grow well and harbours disease, replace it.

■ Don't be put off by "rules" about pruning. It is mostly common sense and a look at a gardening book to get the basics will suffice.

new hedges which front the beds and the background structure of tall hedges, pergolas and sculpture.

"Roses need order. They provide the chain," he says. Certainly, within a strong framework of hedges and pergolas they can provide a constant display of magical moments. Everywhere you go you want to bend and sniff the flowers, or rub the covering on the buds of moss roses to smell the resin fragrance. You find yourself smiling and taking in deep, satisfying breaths.

So many of the old roses were



Gardener Sid Elsgood has recreated a late Victorian rose garden in a sunny clearing within woodland at Warwick Castle

exquisite in bloom but only flowered once. Modern breeding has changed that and made repeat flowering the norm. Mr Austin claims that his rose garden is in bloom from May until the frosts. Well he would, he's a rose lover.

In reality, there are still peaks of shocking profusion and less spectacular troughs, where plants regroup for another flush. But the show can and does go on and on.

The best varieties will bubble on with flower all season. But then, Mr Austin knows what it takes to keep them performing at full speed

on his sandy loam: lots of food and plenty of water.

He mulches heavily with manure, as well as applying the semi-organic fertiliser Vitax Q4 in February and again in June, just before the first flush of flower. This second dose is not to improve the first flush but to get the plants in good heart for making successive flowers.

He has installed irrigation in his garden because the flowers of "dry" roses last a shorter time and the plant struggles to make that succession of new growth and new

flowers. Ecologists might say that the need for water is another nail in the coffin of roses, but we should remember these are exhibition flowers grown en masse and in ideal conditions. In a domestic garden, an occasional bowl of washing-up water on the rose bushes will do just as much good.

Mulching is important for keeping the moisture in the soil as well as covering up fungal spores to stop them splashing up on to foliage in rain. In such a monoculture, Mr Austin sprays his roses regularly against fungal diseases. But only

rarely does he use insecticide, and then by spot treatment. He has combined fungal and insecticide sprays, such as Rovaclear, now withdrawn from sale, because they encourage many gardeners to apply both indiscriminately.

At Warwick Castle, a late Victorian rose garden has been recreated by Sid Elsgood, the gardener and wildlife warden. He uses insecticides only after fledgling birds have flown and favours the relatively gentle Picket. He hardly ever sprays with fungicide (Nimrod T), and it shows. There is, of course, a

FOR EXPERTS

- Of the old-fashioned roses, the *gallica* and *alba* types are least prone to disease. *Rugosa* roses also stay clean. But be wary of the 'Bourbon'. 'Hybrid Perpetual' and old 'Tea' roses, which were not as carefully bred and were soon replaced by Hybrid Teas.
- 'Flower Carpet White', a new low-growing, spray-flowered white, offers great disease-resistance from its *Rosa wichuriana* ancestry, and has outrageously glossy foliage. Grows to 2ft.
- 'Mistress Quickly', an "English rose" with soft pink flowers, has only a little scent. It grows upright to 3ft.

little blackspot here and there, but the overall impression is excellent.

His garden is based on an 1880 plan by Robert Marnock and was built on former tennis courts in 1986, shortly after the Tussocks Group took over the castle. The garden sits in a sunny clearing within woodland and the design is loosely cruciform, with a complex arrangement of turf and gravel paths.

Despite the symmetry, the overall feel is light, airy and flowing. And there are roses everywhere — in massed beds, in beds of standards over shorter bushes, swagged to the crested iron perimeter supports, and smothering seats and arbours.

The surrounding trees lend height to the scene and the great 15th arches of ramblers, such as 'The Garland', anchor and lift the design and pour out a heady surfeit of perfume.

Mr Elsgood feels no need for a levelling of herbaceous plants with his roses. But to visit, to learn from, to breathe in on a sunny day, there is nothing like a rose garden.

● Gardens which have a good show of roses include: David Austin Roses, Abington, Wolverhampton; Shropshire (01747 780800); Castle Howard, York (01903 048333); Sudley Castle, Winchester, Gloucestershire (01242 444355); Montfort Abbey, near Ramsey, Cambridgeshire (01924 341237); Haddon Hall, Bakewell, Derbyshire (01429 812855); Warwick Castle, Warwick (01926 495421); Rosemoor Garden, Great Torrington, Devon (01805 624067).

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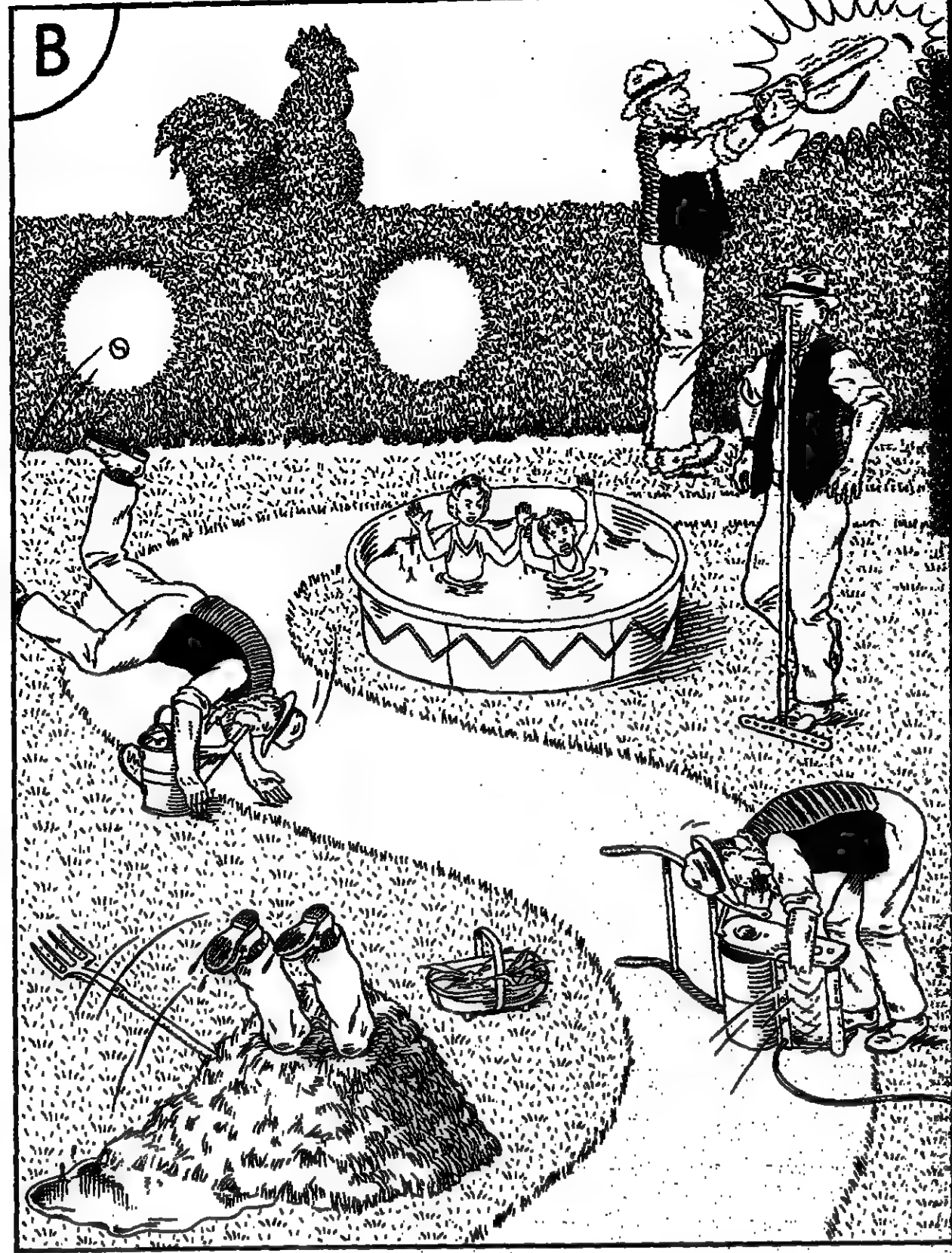
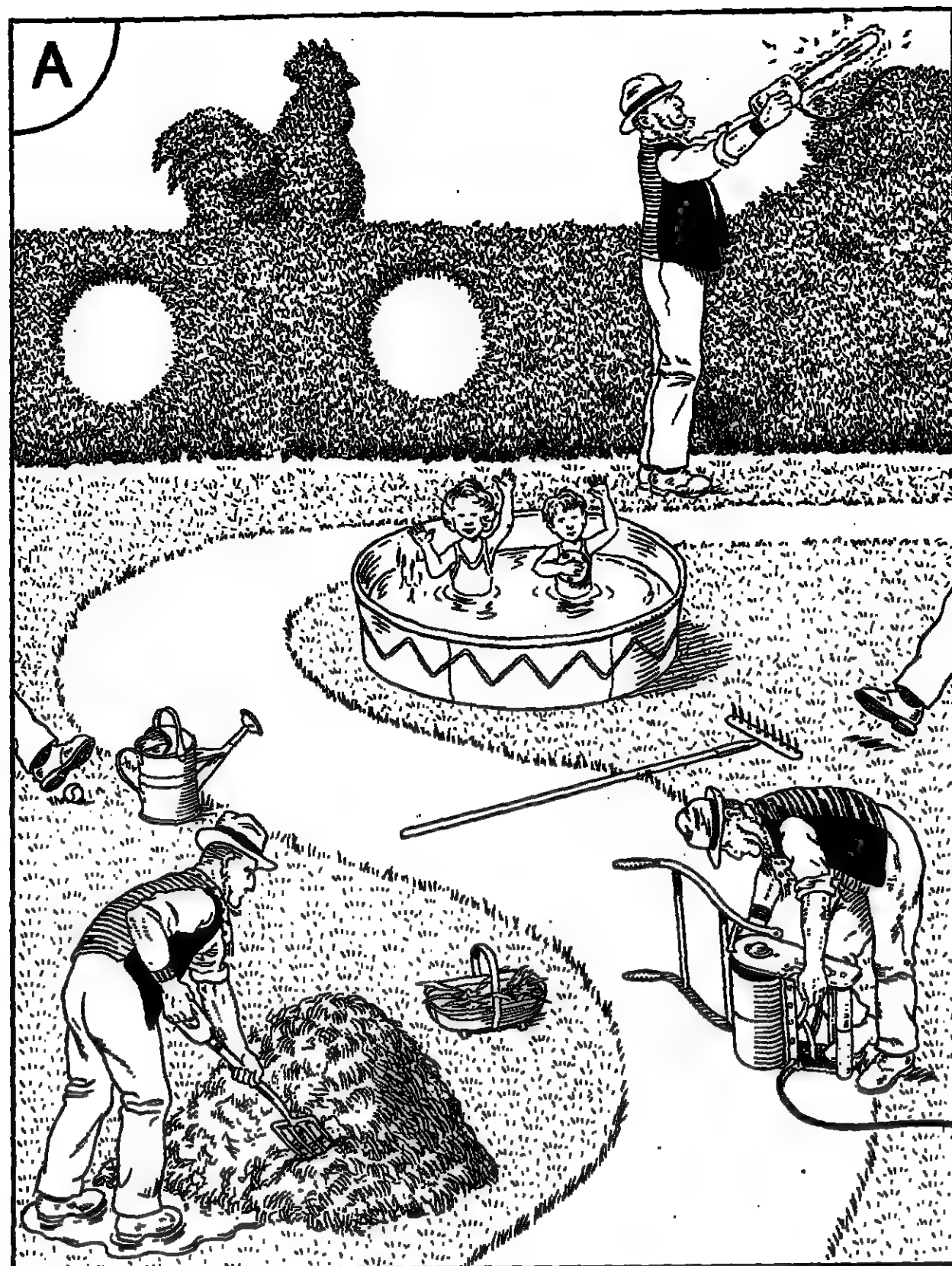
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CRAFTSMAN BUILT: DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY



Gardens are full of hidden dangers, but by following a few simple rules you can make them safer, says Jane Owen

Take care – it's a jungle out there

A designer friend who knows the value of urine as a compost accelerator was once stung on a delicate part of his anatomy. Gardening, like life, can be a dangerous pastime. His injury, which involved a trip to hospital, would have come under the heading "compost heap" in the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' list of "selected garden articles causing injury".

Tantalisingly, the society does not stipulate what other injuries can be inflicted by a compost heap. In 1992, "compost heap" accounted for 0.5 per cent of 51,000 serious garden accidents. At the top of the

chart came "wood, sticks and branches", which accounted for 15.2 per cent. Latest estimates suggest there are 350,000 garden accidents every year, 25,000 of which involve tools, mostly the lawn mower.

One of the most baffling statistics is that the watering can is responsible for about 400 accidents a year. How? Accidental drowning while making detailed study of the water level? Becoming impaled on the spout? "Watering can" comes above the "garden roller" and the "rotary cultivator" in the danger list.

Cracked backs are such a regular problem for gardeners that the National Back Pain Association has a pamphlet on the subject. And

the association despairs about many standard British gardening hand tools, such as spades and forks, which cause unnecessary stress to the back because their handles are too short.

Australian-style, long-handled tools cause less back stress – the lighter the better. Neil Tools makes a range called Backsaver, which includes spades, forks, rakes, hoes and an edging knife. All the tools are lighter than most conventional equivalents and are designed to be used sitting down or standing straight.

I am reasonably fit and strong and use traditional British tools but I only ever use a border spade

which carries less soil than standard ones, so putting less strain on my back. Mowing places great strain on the back, especially when they are sweeping from side to side. Hands and feet are the most vulnerable parts of the anatomy after the back, and stout shoes and gloves are advised (although gloves make it impossible to trace and delve out the long roots of bindweed or mint when you are hand weeding).

Power tools such as shredders, hedge trimmers and strimmers should be used with protective goggles, and chainsaws should be used only by people who have been trained. Most hand tools are poten-

tially dangerous because they have sharp points or blades. Accidents to small children often happen when they are exploring untidy tool sheds. Lock tools away and store them tidily.

When buying children's play equipment, look for British Standard BS5665 and ensure that slides and swings are securely installed. Children need to be protected from water – half of all those who drown are toddlers.

Electrocution is a common problem and a current breaker is essential with all electrical equipment. This small plug-like device,

available from most DIY and garden stores, will cut off the power if there is a problem. Look for the BEAB or BSI kitemark: before buying tools, follow the instructions and never use in wet weather.

If man-made dangers in the garden don't get you, nature might. Tetanus, an organism which lurks in the soil, can cause death if it enters a cut, although it is probably one thing the under-fives don't have to worry about. Most will have been vaccinated at school.

Gardeners over 50 who have not been in the armed forces (where they would have been vaccinated) and are concerned about the risk of tetanus should contact their GP.

FACT FILE

- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (0121-248 2000).
- National Back Pain Association (0181-977 5474). For a self-help kit about gardening and back pain, send £2.50 to the National Back Pain Association, Elm Tree Road, Teddington TW11 8EP.
- Information on tetanus: Backsaver, Neil Tools 0116-281 4242.
- Poisonous Plants in Britain and Ireland CD-Rom (see below), £39, from HMSO, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT. Credit card orders: 0171-873 9000.
- Information on the fungi CD-Rom (see below) from Dr Deborah Smith, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, Surrey TW9 3AE (fax 0181-332 5768).

IDEAL FOR FLOWER BEDS, BORDERS AND PATIO TUBS

Dutch Crocus at half normal price

THESE large-flowered Dutch crocus bulbs will become a profusion of colour as the first hint of warm weather touches next spring. Once planted they can be left undisturbed and will flower year after year, gaining more flowers as they multiply.

Crocuses make superb displays in flower beds, borders, window boxes or patio tubs, and are at their best when planted closely together in clumps.

We are offering readers a choice of five colours: light blue, purple, pure white, bright yellow or blue and white striped – all of which will be packed separately and labelled so you can plan your colour scheme or make your own mixtures as required. Each pack has 40 bulbs and costs between £4.99 and £5.50. Alternatively, treat yourself to one pack of each variety for only £12.99 inc. p&p – giving you 200 bulbs at half the normal price.



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Send coupon and remittance to THE TIMES DUTCH CROCUS OFFER, PO Box 8, Basingstoke, Hants, RG24 8EJ.
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CODE	PLEASE SEND ME:	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
A	20 LIGHT BLUE CROCUS	20	£4.99	
B	20 PURPLE CROCUS	20	£4.99	
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D	20 BRIGHT YELLOW CROCUS	20	£5.25	
E	20 BLUE & WHITE STRIPED CROCUS	20	£5.50	
F	20 HALF-PRICE CROCUS COLLECTION	20	£12.99	
TOTAL COST:				

FOR ORDERS PLEASE TELEPHONE 01775 710000 (24 HOURS)

Beware the peril of poison ivy (and the rest)

Plants have great potential to harm as well as please. Giant hogweed, chichory (cichorium), rue and achillea are among many that may cause skin allergies, although all are attractive. One garden centre has even withdrawn rue because of bad publicity about its poisonous properties. It is a shame. I have scars from a hogweed burn but I still enjoy the plant.

If you eat the sedum or sweet-smelling shrub clematis or the leaves of some figs, you will be in pain, and laburnum is terribly poisonous. Parts of the yew are fatal when eaten.

The Poisons Unit at Guy's Hospital in London, which takes calls from hospitals nationwide about poisonings, has a top ten of poisonous plant inquiries (see panel).

According to Dr Liz Dauncey of Kew Gardens, eating the fruit of the

POISONOUS PLANTS TO WATCH OUT FOR

- ☐ laburnum (poisonous)
- ☐ honeysuckle
- ☐ cotoneaster
- ☐ deadly nightshade (poisonous – the victim has usually made it into a pie, mistaking it for other plants)
- ☐ woody nightshade (poisonous)
- ☐ yew (poisonous)
- ☐ sweet peas
- ☐ pyracantha
- ☐ elder
- ☐ mahonia

plants marked with stars is not expected to cause harmful effects unless taken in substantial quantities. However, if any vomiting or abdominal pain is experienced, medical help should be sought immediately.

Unlike France, where the Government funds local identification services to check that plants and fungi gathered in the wild are edible, in Britain we have to contact a hospital if

we suspect somebody, usually a child, has eaten something poisonous. If that poison is an insecticide, identification and therefore antidote is straightforward, but plant poisonings are more tricky because the hospital cannot always be sure of the correct identification of a plant. So the Royal Botanic Gardens has produced a CD-Rom called *Poisonous Plants in Britain and Ireland*. A similar CD-

Rom about fungi is due out this month. If you do think someone has been poisoned, make the victim lie down and telephone your local hospital. Keep a sample of the plant.

You may have noticed that an increasing number of plants sold in garden centres are labelled as harmful. This is in line with the Horticultural Trades Association code of practice and is a useful warning.

Children should be taught from an early age about the potency of plants. My daughters, now six and seven, spent their early summers in a patch garden with a laburnum at one end. When they were at the stage when babies put everything in their mouths, they were watched constantly. But gradually they learnt to distinguish the poisonous plants from the harmless ones.

A festival of colour, even at the fringe

■ Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (0131-552 7171)

One mile north of the city centre. Open all year (except Christmas Day and New Year's Day), 10am-5pm until the end of August; 10am-6pm Sept-Oct; 10am-4pm Nov-Feb. Free

Get away from the frenzy of the Edinburgh Festival, which starts this weekend, with a relaxing visit to this botanic garden. One of the oldest in the country. There are fine heather and peat gardens, and the birch collection is extensive.

But this is far more than the best of Scottish planting – 11 glasshouses hold an extensive and well-displayed selection of subtropical and tropical plants – because the views down across to the Firth of Forth are splendid.

GARDENS TO VISIT

■ Great Maytham Hall, Rolvenden, near Cranbrook, Kent (01580 241346)

Four miles west of Tenterden. Open Wed-Thurs, 2-5pm until end of August, last admission 4pm. Garden only £1.50, children 75p

Great Maytham is said to have inspired Frances Hodgson Burnett to write *The Secret Garden*. When she stayed at the house, the walled garden was an almost impenetrable, overgrown orchard.

Today, borders in and around the walled gardens are thick with penstemons, hebes, daisy-like leucanthemum and solanum. Cream and pink water lilies dot the pond, an

ancient mulberry tree dangles its arms over the croquet lawn, a pomegranate flourishes on one south-facing wall, and there is a herb border, a new hosta bed and newly-planted lime avenue.

■ Little Upcott Garden, Marsh Green, near Rockbeare, Devon (01404 822797)

Four miles east of M5 J29, ten miles east of Exeter. Open today – for the National Gardens Scheme, with a share of profits going to the Cats Protection League – and tomorrow, 1.30-5.30pm. At other times by appointment only. £1.50, children 50p

The garden's two acres are tended by Mike and Maureen Jones, who are plantsmen



Victoria waterlilies at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

with an unusual design ability. There are plenty of grey foliage plants, and this weekend the 5th self-supporting purple-flowered *Verbena bonariensis* will be at its best and the second flush of roses will be giving some colour. The garden has a good structure, although it is informal in style with a certain amount of self-seeding allowed. The

Joneses rarely use chemicals so there is plenty of wildlife, including some ducks around the pond area and some bees, sheep and cats – visitors' dogs have to be kept on leads. If you miss today's opening, Mr and Mrs Jones are willing to open the garden by appointment.

JANE OWEN

Alex O'Connell gets lost in a 30-room manor which is home to a public relations guru



The drawing room has a cushioned platform at one end

Des res that's ab fab

Rock-star belts used to be long, leathery fastening devices for keeping snakeskin trousers above the hips of lanky pop stars. Of late, the words have earned a new meaning and describe discreet zones, usually in the Home Counties, where Liam, Bono *et al* can have their friends round to play, while keeping out of the public eye.

Matthew Freud, the public relations guru (Pepsi, Planet Hollywood) and man about town — the son of Clement, nephew of Lucian, brother of Emma and great-grandson of Sigmund — lives right in the buckle of it, as it were. Brewhurst House, near Loxwood, West Sussex, is as tucked away as it is possible to be without going to the Highlands. Although Kylie Minogue, Mike Rutherford (of Genesis) and Alvin Starburst are a hop away, the Brewhurst estate is the ultimate secluded zone — reached through an unassuming gate at the bottom of a long, winding lane.

He bought the house two years ago. It is a Grade II listed, 30-room Elizabethan pile, part of a small estate which includes a cottage, two barns, livery stables and a swimming pool, all set in about 61 acres of land. The Freuds have nothing against Toby jugs, but asked Michael Randall, the architect who designed their London house, for more selective decoration.

There was a lot of work to be done and the Freuds lived in a cottage on the estate for six months while it was completed. The result is interestingly



The Grade II listed 30-room Elizabethan pile, part of a small estate which includes a cottage, two barns and a swimming pool, is set in 61 acres

but eccentric old Sussex family who wiled away the days breeding goats, collecting Toby jugs and filling every available inch of wall space with pictures and knick-knacks. The Freuds have nothing against Toby jugs, but asked Michael Randall, the architect who designed their London house, for more selective decoration.

There was a lot of work to be done and the Freuds lived in a cottage on the estate for six months while it was completed. The result is interestingly

oxymoronic — a sort of a huge cosy cottage with hanging beams, dark wood floors and jumpy plaster.

The master suite is hopelessly grand with French tapestries and a huge bed, but downstairs there is a pinball den and a puja room, with kitsch shrines and Indian oddments. There are many personal touches — furniture shipped back from Freud's travels. "When we bought the house Caroline was pregnant and we

had just come back from Bali and got the idea for this" — he points to a huge cushioned platform in the drawing room with a cage at one end — a sort of cross between the Marquis de Sade's boudoir and a children's play area. A particularly handy spot for tipsy, tiresome dinner-guests? "Yes, sometimes you need cages for grown-ups too," he says. Freud is a veritable Inspector Gadget. Wired into the Elizabethan splendour are sensor lights and a huge television tuned into 500 channels.

The music system is enviable, with volume controls on the walls of each room. The sound quality is so good that even when you're in the orchard, admiring Claudia and Naomi in the pot-bellied pig pen, you feel as though you're sandwiched between a pair of wardrobe speakers.

At Brewhurst nothing has been left to chance: "I'm a complete control freak," says Freud proudly. "What's fantastic about doing it from scratch is that you make a decision about every single detail." This meant making sure that even the radiator caps matched the bath taps.

It is the perfect party house. A fortieth birthday party for the scriptwriter Richard Curtis was held in the barn: "It was sit-down for 200, all the guests turned up on coaches with setsons," says Freud. Then there was his son Jonah's birthday party, with Indian tents, low tables, cushions and an ice-cream bar.

So who is he expecting to buy it? "Well, Noel and Liam have been looking in the area," he says, "but really, it's a PR man's house," he smiles, safely delivering another perfectly quotable quote.

Agent: Knight Frank, Guildford (01483 565171)

Hanch Hall near Lichfield, Staffordshire (Weekend, August 2) is for sale through Knight Frank (0171-629 8171).

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

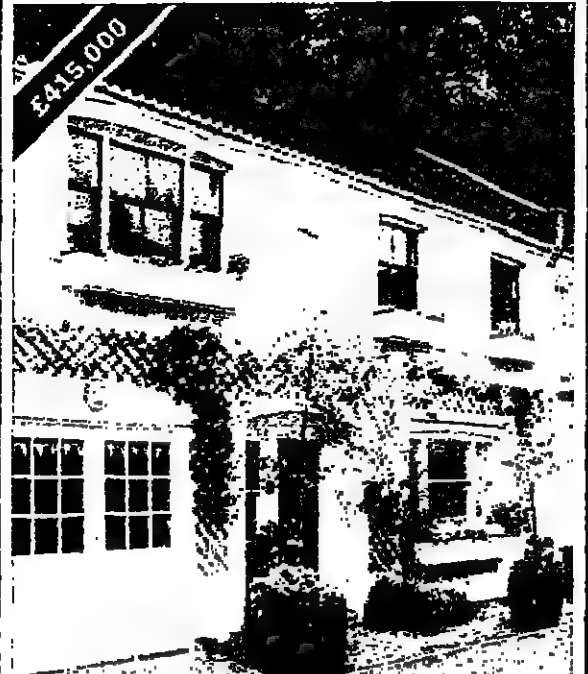
Brewhurst, near Loxwood, West Sussex.
 ● Price: The house with 14 acres is to be offered in September for £850,000 (in lots or as a whole).
 ● Travel: regular train service from Guildford to Waterloo (35 minutes), Horsham to Victoria (50 minutes) or Basingstoke to Victoria (one hour).
 ● Entertainment: hunting at Chiddingfold, racing at Sandown Park and golf at Shillingham Park. Seating on the South Coast and numerous walks and rides.
 ● Shopping: home-grown veg: supermarkets in Horsham.

PEOPLE'S PROPERTY

What the same money will buy around the country
 DESPITE the summer recess, well-located houses in central London are changing hands within hours of coming on to the market. In Chelsea, it is not uncommon for three or more buyers to be competing for the same house, with properties going over guide prices.

Mile-for-mile from London, lower Kent offers the best value property in the South East. Prices around Canterbury, which is only 60 miles from London but an hour and a half on the train, are 10 per cent cheaper than in other areas within an equivalent distance from the capital, although they are rising. Country houses over £300,000 have gained 5 per cent this year, reports Calcutt Maclean Standen in Canterbury.

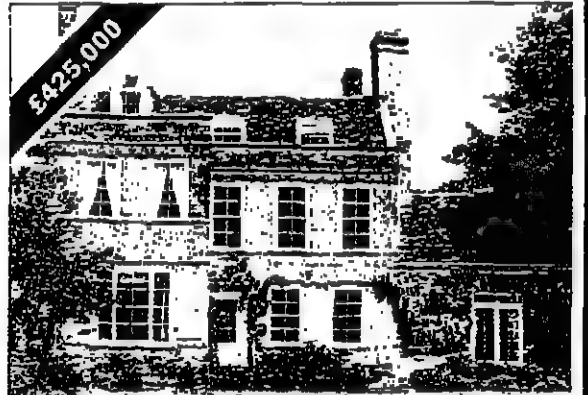
In Suffolk, the estate agent Bedfords reports a move back to the towns, with well-heeled "empty-nesters" looking to trade in their rambling country retreats for more modest period town houses offering better security and easier maintenance. A shortage of supply in towns such as Bury St Edmunds has pushed prices up 10 per cent this year.



This two-bedroom mews house in Elm Park Lane, Chelsea, west London, is for sale at £415,000 (John D. Wood, 0171-352 1484).



For the same sort of money you could buy Weymouth Manor, an historic Grade II listed 15th-century five-bedroom house in just over an acre, at Weymouth, Dorset, near Ramsgate, Kent (Calcutt Maclean Standen, 01233 812060).



Spend a little more (£425,000) in Suffolk, and you could be the proud owner of 17 Westgate Street, an eight-bedroom, five-reception room, Georgian town house in large walled gardens, close to the centre of Bury St Edmunds (Bedfords, 01284 789999).

CHERYL TAYLOR

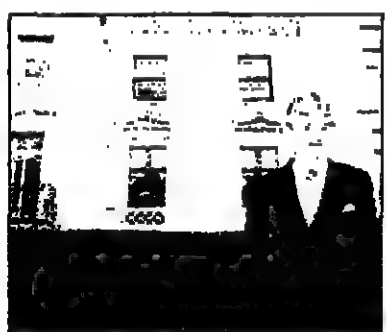
DREAM HOMES OF THE PRs



PETER MANDELSON, Minister without Portfolio, shares his time between his Victorian Hartlepool constituency house and the Regency townhouse he recently moved into in the trendy area of Notting Hill Gate. Prices for similar properties are £600,000 to £625,000.



LIZ BREWER, society hostess, shares her five-story, six-bedroom Belgraveia house of 19 years with her daughter, Talulah, and her office. With a conservatory and a "wild but fabulous" garden, her house could fetch more than £900,000 if it was put on the market.



TIM BELL, former press consultant to Baroness Thatcher, lives in a Georgian terrace house in the heart of Belgraveia. It is surrounded by a 9ft privet hedge to ensure his privacy from the media. A neighbouring four-bedroom house recently sold for £1.65 million.

PROPERTY PROFILE: NORFOLK

A weekly look at the property market around Britain

Attractions: Unspoilt sandy beaches along the north Norfolk coast lure many weekenders and sailors, particularly around the villages of Holkham, Blakeney, Burnham, Overy Staithes and Brancaster Staithes. Best inland address is genteel Burnham Market, a haven for urban sophisticates. The Norfolk Broads appeal to boatmen. The city of Norwich has a fine Norman cathedral and 12th-century castle. The county has royal connections. Queen Victoria bought Sandringham House for Edward, Prince of Wales, in 1861. And the area was also the childhood home of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The market: Doing quite nicely. Beltons in King's Lynn reports that viewings have almost doubled in the past year. Strutt & Parker in Norwich says prices have risen by 10 to 15 per cent in the same period. It has 700 applicants on its mailing list, and currently holds 60 properties. Savills in Norwich reckons that 60 per cent of buyers come from outside the area.

Prices rose by 48 per cent in 1988 alone, says Savills. The market fell by 30 to 40

per cent during the recession, according to Strutt & Parker, which reckons that the market began to improve slowly in 1995. Real recovery only began this year, however.

Expect to pay: About £110,000 to £120,000 for a three-bedroom detached cottage; £200,000 to £250,000 for a farmhouse with land and £350,000 to £450,000 for a medium-size country house, says Strutt & Parker. Period properties are in great demand, says Beltons, with the best buys in south Norfolk. And being on the sea side of the road in coastal villages can add £20,000 to your house, says Bedfords.

Significant sale: The Manor House, at West Lexham, five miles from Swaffham, was recently sold by Strutt & Parker for considerably more than its £550,000 guide price, despite needing renovation. The Grade II listed Georgian-fronted house, in 20 acres with two cottages, was on the market for five weeks, with five bidders going to best and final offers.

AMANDA LOOSE

FULLY FUNCTIONAL 1950'S REPRODUCTION FANS

Classic metal desk fans — only £69.95

THESE 1950's replica metal fans are ideal for keeping cool in the summer, ventilating centrally-heated air in the winter, or alternatively, are simply an attractive item for your office or home. Manufactured by Aeromaster, they are available in three colours: "Cagney" — fully chromed; "Bogart" — silk black; or "Edward G" — an antique copper finish. Features include a 90-degree oscillation, tilt adjustment and three fan speeds, the highest of which delivers a powerful 2,160 cubic metres of air per hour at 1,250 revolutions per minute. Weighing 4.5kg each and measuring 17in high, 7.5in diameter base and 13in diameter fan guard, each one is made to the highest quality European safety standards and comes with a two-year guarantee.

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CLASSIC DESK FAN — Chrome	1	£69.95	
CLASSIC DESK FAN — Silk Black	1	£69.95	
CLASSIC DESK FAN — Antique Copper	1	£69.95	
Price includes postage and packing.			TOTAL £209.85

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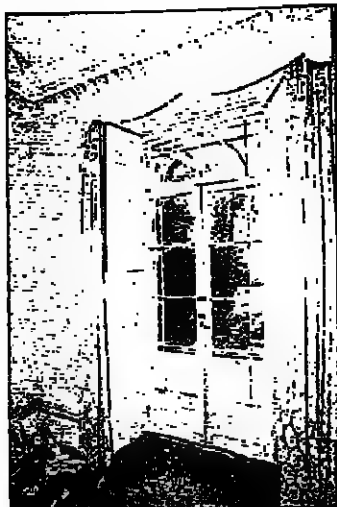
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Allow 7-14 days for delivery from receipt of order. Offer available in UK & Eire. If despatched please return goods within seven days of receipt for full refund. Offer subject to availability. You may see further information on offers and services which may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to participate please tick box.

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Crumbling wrecks are being restored to their former glory, but it's not a project for the faint-hearted

Finding love among the ruins



Georgian window in the living room, awaiting renovation

Seventeen months ago Sarah and Steve Jackson fell in love with a 12-bedroom Georgian property in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. "There were holes in the roof, the house had been vandalised, cattle had left their marks, doors and fireplaces were missing, ceilings were down and the grounds were overgrown. But we knew immediately that we wanted it," Mrs Jackson says.

The asking price at the time was about £160,000 — way above what the Jacksons felt they could afford. In the end, though, they managed to secure Portcreek House for considerably less than that, completing the deal in May last year.

Since then the couple — Mr Jackson is a self-employed builder — have worked on the place tirelessly. They have cleared the garden, re-roofed the house, re-rendered two of the outside walls and completely restored the servants' quarters. It is these quarters that Mr and Mrs Jackson and their boys — Geraint, ten, Craig, eight, and Matthew, six — moved into a short while ago while work progresses on the rest of the building.

By this time next year, the Grade II listed house near Pembroke should be open for bed and breakfast — an option which seemed the most obvious, given the number of bedrooms, says Mrs Jackson. The restoration of the building has delighted Save Britain's Heritage, the organisation which over the past 20 years has campaigned to save historic (in



Tender loving care needed: Steve and Sarah Jackson outside Portcreek House, which they have been restoring for more than a year

terms of age and architectural merit) buildings from demolition and neglect.

The 125 or so reports that Save has issued include eight on historic buildings in England and Wales that are "at risk" from neglect and dilapidation. Neglect often means in a sad state of repair, sometimes the buildings are almost falling down. Most are listed.

Richard Pollard, secretary of Save, estimates that more than a thousand properties have been brought to the public's attention — mansions, castles, lighthouses, mills, barns, medieval cottages, coastal fortifications, pubs, factories and hotels. "We don't have the resources to find out what happens to all the buildings we feature, but in terms of raising awareness the reports have been very successful," he says.

In a report in December 1995, Save highlighted Portcreek House, saying "the house is crying out for

major repair to restore it to the comfortable and elegant family home it once was". The property had been with Pembroke estate agents Guy Thomas & Co since 1994 and had attracted some interest. Save's exposure brought fresh inquiries, although the Jacksons already knew it was on the market because they lived locally.

This year Save mentioned the property again, this time as a success story, in its eighth annual report on buildings at risk called *The State They're In*. "Tremendous news" is how the restoration is described.

The State They're In highlights 120 properties which Save says need urgent attention. They include an east house in Kent, a former brewery in Cumbria, an 18th-century house in north Devon, mansions, barns, industrial buildings and churches.

About a third of the properties

in the report are actually on the market, another third are those where the owners might be open to negotiation and the rest are not for sale but are put into the report to publicise the state of the buildings and to encourage their owners to restore them," Mr Pollard says.

Among the properties featured and already sold are an early-18th-century barn in Norfolk, a water-pumping station in Lancashire and a small 18th-century building in Blandford Forum, Dorset. The latter has gone to the local Signpost Housing Association, which says it will start refurbishing it this month for future renting.

Save hears about most of the cases from building conservation officers at local councils and it is to them that Mr Pollard says prospective buyers should turn, both for advice on what can and cannot be done to the property and about any possible grants. In Scotland there is a Register of Buildings at Risk run

by the Scottish Civic Trust, where the public can go for details of properties.

Twice a year a selection of the register's properties appear in a *Buildings at Risk* bulletin with a brief description, and details of the risks, the owner or agent, and availability.

However, taking on an historic house in poor condition is not for the faint-hearted. "You've got to be patient and tremendously committed but the rewards are fantastic," Mr Pollard says. Mr Jackson agrees. "To live in a place like this is beyond my wildest dreams, but there's still a mountain to climb with the work we have to do."

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

© The State They're In, £10.95, from Save, 68 Battersea High St, London SW11 3JX (0171-228 3330). Scottish Civic Trust, 42 Miller St, Glasgow G1 1DT (0141-221 1466). Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 37 Spital Sq, London E1 (0171-377 1644).

A CAUTIONARY TALE

An expensive rural idyll

There is a tendency for the heart to rule the head when flicking through one of Save Britain's Heritage (Save) reports on endangered buildings. In the manner of *Country Life* property advertisements, the pictures of tumbledown cottages, farmhouses and Elizabethan manor houses can give rise to dreams of a rural idyll that may appear, on the face of it, possible to realise.

The prices of the properties on offer are staggeringly low, and the chance of replacing the mock Tudor of suburbia with the authentic Tudor of the creaking houses and crumbling shells that the group wants to preserve can be too exciting to resist.

However, the initial attractions can drown in a sea of bureaucracy and mounting restoration costs. By definition, the properties on the books of Save are those which their owners have found most difficult to deal with. Apart from their commitment and enthusiasm, there is no reason why a new buyer should find things any easier.

Buying the property in the first place can be difficult, as was the case with Brook Cottage in Hoofield, Cheshire. Save carried an enticing picture of Brook Cottage, a timber-framed 17th-century affair, in its 1996 report. It was described as "a peach of a cottage needing fairly swift repair in order

to be economically viable" and brought a flood of inquiries.

This was unfortunate, for the group was unaware that Gareth and Michelle Rowland had already bought it, along with a bungalow, for £95,000.

The confusion was cleared up, but the Rowlands, who bought the property from a building society which repossessed it, ran straight into problems. The two-up, two-down cottage was declared uninhabitable as a condition of planning consent for the bungalow to be built in the late 1970s. The Rowlands owned Brook Cottage but were not allowed to live in it.

After a long fight, Gareth Rowland persuaded Cheshire City Council to revoke the ban. He was then refused permission for an extension to the cottage, listed Grade II, and had to go back into battle. He submitted plans for a traditional oak-framed wing, hiring an archaeologist and specialist joiners to handle the construction.

After spending thousands of pounds more than the initial estimate, his new home has taken shape. It has since been cited by the council as a "textbook case of sensitive restoration". It may well be, but at some price. As Gareth Rowlands says: "I have stopped counting the cost."



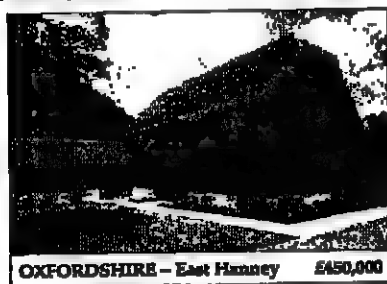
The buyers of Brook Cottage were not allowed to live in it

A NETWORK OF SEVEN COUNTRY OFFICES LINKED TO NINE OFFICES IN CENTRAL LONDON



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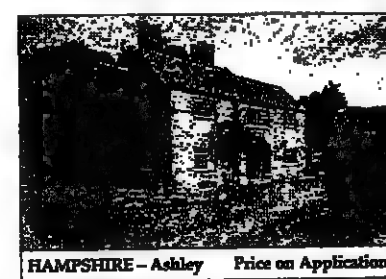
OXFORDSHIRE - East Hanney £450,000

OXFORD
01865 311522



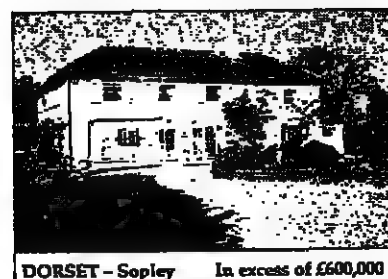
HAMPSHIRE - Echinswell £295,000

NEWBURY
01635 523225



HAMPSHIRE - Ashley Price on Application

WINCHESTER
01962 863131

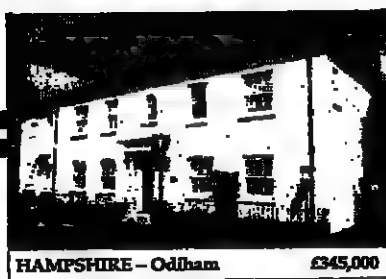


DORSET - Sopley In excess of £600,000

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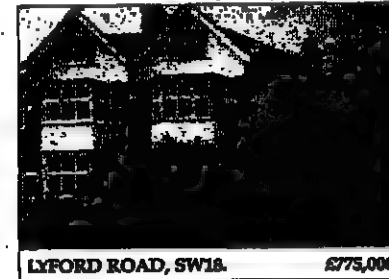
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English

Farming is a highly mechanised business, but how many women do you see driving a combine harvester or the ploughs?

Corn dollies put the kettle on

DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

Fearful of putting a politically incorrect foot in it, I can hardly bring myself to remind you of the old country saw: "A woman, a dog, and a walnut tree, the more you beat 'em, the better they be". Not one sentiment expressed in those few words finds a place in the minds of right-thinking people in the late 20th century. While beating is repulsive, the use of violence against dogs to make them perform is an equally vile notion, and hitting walnut trees seems a pointless pastime (these days you are supposed to reason verbally with your plants).

Having said that, I have a walnut tree which refuses to bear fruit and is failing to respond to talking therapies. Shall I threaten it with the axe? Or would committed tree-huggers blanch and march against it? You cannot be too careful these days.

I mention all this only because I have recently been surprised at how small are the inroads of political correctness into country life, especially if you are a woman. I pose the question honestly: has the role of women in the countryside changed at all in the past 50 years? While

the Sixties sisterhoods in the cities were burning their underpinnings, what was happening down on the farms?

Pretty much the same as always, I imagine: women were getting on with the work, standing in for men who went missing and wondering what to make their husbands for tea. There will be exceptions, I know, but for most people things seem to have changed hardly at all since the 16th century when Thomas Tusser wrote: *Good husbandmen must moile and toille, / to laie to live by laboured feilds! Their wives at home must keepe such colle, / as their acres may profit yield.*

Let me tell you about a farmhouse kitchen in which I was sitting only a few days ago. The farmer, a jovial chap, kindly, understanding, salt of the earth, offered me a cup of tea. I accepted. Expecting him to rise from his chair and take the three paces which would have brought him to the electric kettle, and the

further stride which would have placed him at the tap, I was surprised when, instead, he made for the door. It was double the distance required to get to the kettle and then to the tap, but he clearly thought the journey was worth it. Having got to the door, he opened it, gazed into the far distance till his eyes fell upon his wife, and bellowed at the top of his voice: "Come and make us a cup of tea, love!" So far from the house was the woman that a decent pair of binoculars would have been needed to judge the reaction on her face. Nevertheless, despite the distance, she dropped what she was doing, trudged across the

farmyard, picked up the kettle and carried it those few paces to the tap which, for the farmer, had been a journey too far. Should she have ignored him? Or smacked him across the face and told him to get his own lousy tea? In the event, the woman just smiled and asked if we'd like a piece of cake to go with the tea. Sadly, I have seen it all before, more times than I can count. Despite the painful political correctness of *The Archers*, in real life this is the way it is. But also sitting in the kitchen was a young woman in her early twenties, new to country life and shocked to the core by what she had seen. She had been reared

on the fruits of the fertile feminist fields of inner London and now was confronting the rawness of female country life. She could not believe what she was seeing.

However, a glance around the countryside reveals few women doing "men's jobs" or claiming men's privileges. The traditional excuse was that the heavy manual labour required to till the land was beyond what women could manage. The Land Army girls proved otherwise during the Second World War, but after that brief blossoming the countryside reverted to its former ways.

Now that farming is a highly mechanised business, there is no reason why women should not be able to perform most of the tasks required in the running of the farm, but how many women will you see driving a combine harvester this autumn, and driving the ploughs? Of course, there is much work that goes on

backstage on a farm, often done by women and essential to its smooth running, but why is it always the men that get the leading roles?

And this state of affairs? Is there some unwritten contract into which women enter when they take on the burden of country life that they will always perform as one of the chorus and never steal the limelight? And, if so, would they want it any other way? I know that there are women who are highly skilled shepherds, stockpersons, mistresses of foxhounds, gamekeepers and gardeners, but for every one of them my impression is that there are a dozen who are wearily trudging up the garden path answering the call to fill the kettle.

Henry Stephens, whose late-19th century *Book of the Farm* gives us a snapshot of rural life at that time, shows that attitudes towards women on the land have had no radical overhaul since he wrote: "For heavy crops [of corn] where large sheaves are made... three women will be required for every two men, or it may be two women for each man." One of them to make the tea?

How to fly eggs and run a party

William Hague could learn valuable lessons when he takes his MPs on a bonding weekend, Brian Pedley writes



The group crosses the tarn on rafts of planks and drums

To the casual caller, the goings-on at the big house in Eskdale Green might seem a touch perplexing. On the grand terrace, blindfolded middle-aged men can be seen stumbling along in a line, narrowly missing the sundial. Others are visible behind trees, feeding a perspiring 20-stone Scottish prop-forward through a "spider's web" of tightened cord.

Our group is no exception. One morning, several of us are spotted climbing to the roof of a Gothic tower, from where we launch paper gliders into the Cumbrian drizzle. One of the aircraft does a slow nosedive on to the wet lawn, its cargo, a medium-sized egg, arriving miraculously unscrambled. Peter, in his mid-twenties, can hardly contain his relief. "It lives! The egg lives!" he shouts.

The group of 13 at this Outward Bound course is a diverse one: senior managers, accountants, senior sales representatives, quality controllers, two company vice-presidents and myself. We are at a Victorian mansion set in 60 secluded acres an hour and a half from the M6. Here, among the dry stone walls, the most technologically advanced of mobile phones are hunched into digital junk. "The solitude is part of what makes the product work," says John Howse, managing director of the charity's commercial division, Outward Bound Professional.

In the past 20 years, a booming outdoor industry has developed and there are now scores of companies using the outdoors to teach problem-solving, team-building and personal development. For this bankable blend of method and madness, blue-chip clients will pay up to £235 per employee per day. Most of our group had never rock-climbed before. Big Graham, the Scottish lad, wisely refused to look down. Around him were the rocky fells. Five miles away was the coast at Ravenglass and the Irish Sea. From the valley floor, 200ft below, a handful of lambs bleated encouragement. Due east was Scafell, the second highest mountain

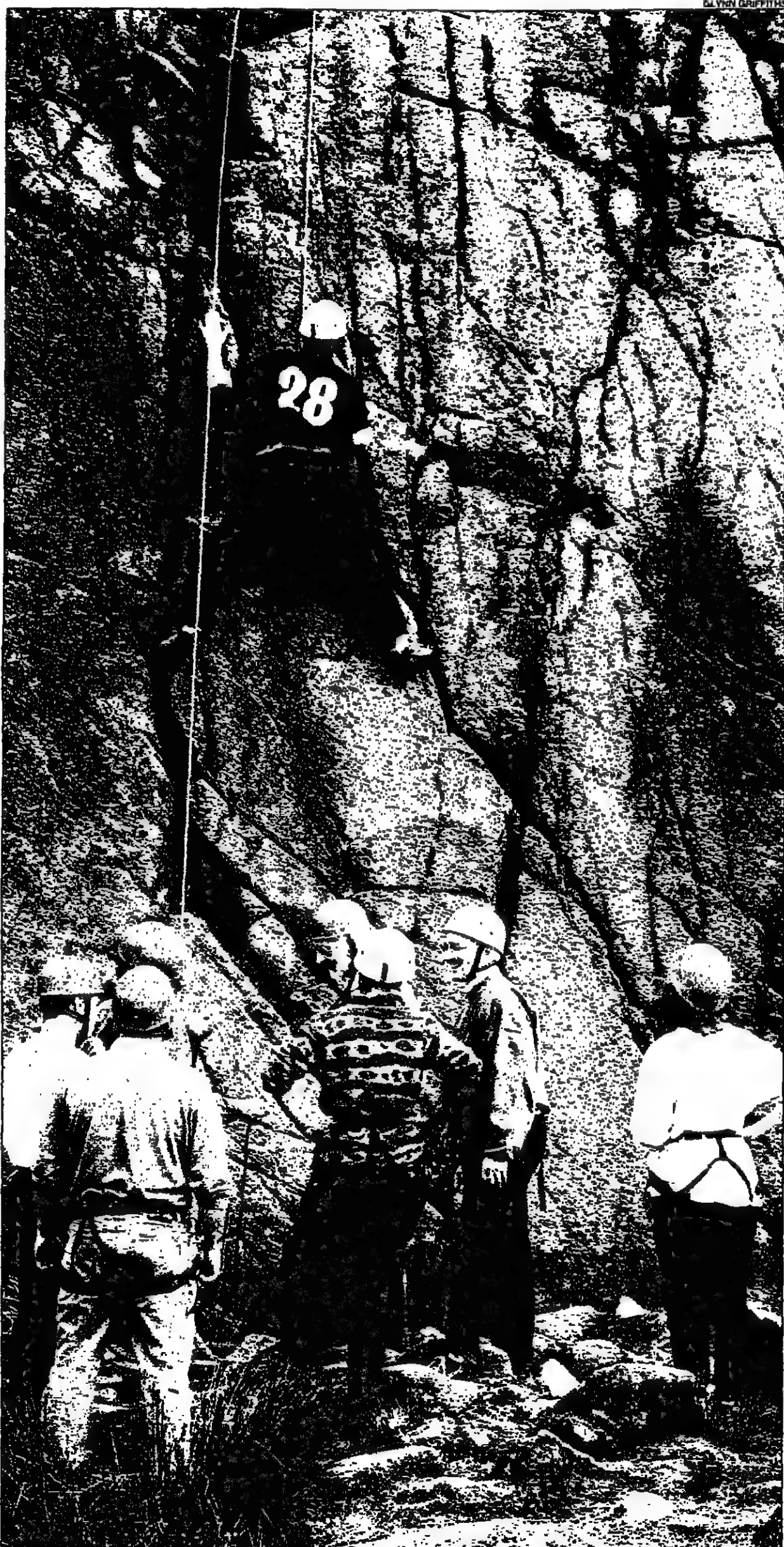
in England. In front of him was a sheer 50ft granite face. "That's a hell of a lot of gravity," someone muttered. "Rock climbing is a physical and a mental challenge," trainer Peter Charnley told us. "It's a thinking person's sport." No one was arguing, least of all Big Graham, who conceded: "Halfway up, I was thinking of bailing out."

Jo Babba, another trainer who had escaped to the outdoors from a scientific career, was a real tough nut, having just spent the night on Ben Nevis. Her job was to guide us through the science of team-building. "The employer is trying to get people through-out the company to work the same way," she says. Outward Bound was the wartime creation of Laurence Durning Holt, the manager of a shipping line, and Kurt Hahn, of headmaster of Gordonstoun. Holt was appalled at the high fatality rate of young Merchant Navy recruits whose ships had been torpedoed. He wanted to give them the toughness of older and tougher personnel, who seemed more able to survive the rigours of the open sea.

The first centre was established at Aberdovey in North Wales in 1941, and nine years later the mansion at Eskdale became the world's first Outward Bound Centre, catering to thousands of teenage boys who were sent by schools, employers and local authorities to experience "a journey of self-discovery," as the Duke of Edinburgh, patron of the charity, called it.

Outward Bound was a regime of ice-cold showers, early morning runs, athletics, plain food and rigorous outdoor survival training. "It was a 1950s boys-school atmosphere," Mr Howse says. "Matron weighed you when you arrived - and when you went away again, you were magically heavier. Outward Bound used the environment to develop kids at that turning point of their lives and it still does that."

These days, however, the delegates are a little older and not quite as fit. Our group of 13 were from various offices of the multinational mining and



Taking up the challenge to scale a sheer 50ft granite face near Eskdale in Cumbria. The exercise helps create a team spirit

commodities group Minoro, and its recent acquisition, Ticon Holdings. One of our first tasks could not have been further away from their everyday lives - to design, build and launch a glider that was capable of flying one egg over a minimum distance of ten metres, with only card, paper and sticky tape.

Of the three planes built, one plummeted disgracefully on to the terrace, the second (a handcrafted Boeing made by the company's executive vice-president) flew a birdlike 22 metres, and the other (ours, with an RAF felt-tipped handlebar moustache) made a

dismal flight, plummeting with a swirl. Back in the boardroom, there was open dissent within the camp. The youngest delegate, 21-year-old Paul, a technical assistant from Burnley, protested that he knew the design wouldn't work but that no one would listen. "I always thought it was too big," he said.

Andrew, a risk assessor, appeared uncharacteristically stumped. That was where Peter Charnley came in, diplomatically suggesting that we could learn something from nature - from the formation of wild geese. "As each bird

flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for each following bird," he explained. "By flying in V-formation, the flock adds 71 per cent greater flying range."

After this, something clicked in the group: the vice-president had volunteered for the orienteering sub-group; Paul had begun to crack the whip in his role of safety officer, and everyone had begun to listen.

The orienteers returned within seconds of the deadline and across the tarn floated two rafts of planks and drums, each with seven people on

board, including Graham. From the Isle of Man, just visible in the haze, came the hint of a westerly breeze. Urged on by our cries, the breeze became a gust and gently the egg wobbled upwards on a string in a rattle of thin black plastic.

Three days ago, the Minoro 13 had hardly known each other. Now, after three gliders, two rafts, an aqueduct and a windmill, we had achieved the miraculous. We were a team - and we had flown an egg.

For further details on a range of Outward Bound courses, ring 01946 723281.

Rather peckish woodpeckers

FEATHER REPORT

GREAT spotted woodpeckers are the black-and-white woodpeckers that more and more people are seeing in their gardens and even on their bird tables. They are one of the few species that have actually been increasing in numbers in Britain over the past 25 years.

The most interesting thing about them is probably their eating habit. They are very ingenious foragers. In summer, when there are plenty of insects on or under the bark of trees, they concentrate on those. They can easily turn over a piece of loose bark with their beak and then their tongue shoots out like a harpoon and spears any soft insects crawling about.

In winter, the great spotted woodpecker digs deeper. It goes hunting mainly on dead trees or branches and, with its sharp beak and powerful neck-muscles, it can bore a hole five or six inches deep into the wood, teasing out the larvae and beetles.

They also eat the seeds of fir cones, especially on the continent, and are skilled at finding cracks in tree-trunks, or carving out hollows for themselves, where they can wedge a spruce cone firmly and attack it for its contents.

THEY ARE acrobatic birds and will hang for a long time under a branch to get at insects on the bottom, though they do not come down tree-trunks headfirst. The females, which have a red patch under the tail like the males but no red on the nape, go up into the smaller twigs at the top of a tree more than the males do. In sum, they are omnivorous. In summer, they will snap up any eggs or nestlings they come across; in winter they will scold the entire contents of a bird table.

At this time of the year they revert to solitary lives, the

males, females and young all taking up their own patches of wood and garden. In the autumn they like to sit on the very tip of a pointed conifer tree and repeat loudly their one main call, a sharp "chack". The young, oddly enough, are more colourful than their parents, with red feathers right across the top of their head.

Great spotted woodpeckers, like green woodpeckers, are often amusing to watch. If you see one clinging to a tree-trunk, it may not fly off, but will go round the back and peer out at you. If you circle round the trunk, it will do the same, spiralling higher and higher before it gives up and goes undulating away.

DERWENT MAY

What's about Birders - Watch for flocks of mistle thrushes on fields and in parks. Twitlers (very noisy), Lendward Nature Reserve, Suffolk; Kanish plow, Ferrybridge, Dorset; pied-billed grebe, Cotswold Water Park, Wiltshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

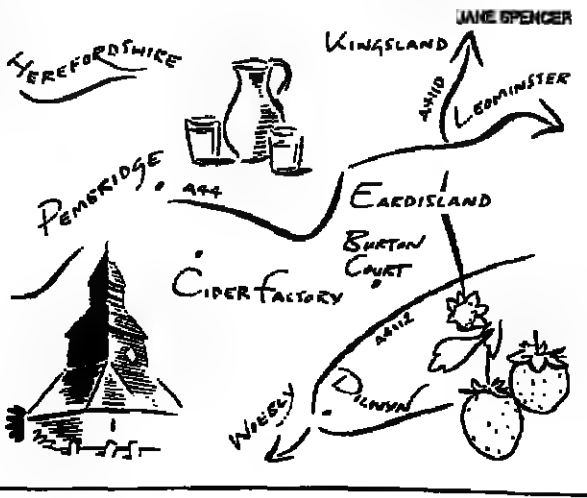


Acrobatic woodpeckers

ON THE SPOT: PEMBRIDGE

Rural recommendations
The place: The market square, Pembrice, Herefordshire.
The view: Some may describe this tiny black-and-white village near the Welsh border as chocolate box, but the 14th-century medieval beams were easing themselves into the landscape long before the cocoa bean came to Britain.
The appeal: The weight of age has left many of the timbered houses and the pub leaning at alarming angles into the gardens and lanes, lending an air of Hansel and Gretel.
Afficionados: Mainly people who enjoy the spirit of Old England. I first visited 20 years ago at the invitation of a friend who chanced on the village and made it her home.
How to get there: From London: M40/A40 to Oxford, Cheltenham, Gloucester, A417/A49 to Ledbury and then Leominster, A44 to Pembrice.
OS reference: 50 390 580 (sheet 148).
Time to visit: In the summer, when customers spill out into the tiny market square, their plates piled high with food from the busy kitchens of the New Inn. In the winter, log fires in the flag-floored back bar welcome the visitor after a ramble.
Historical interest: Sites around Pembrice are numerous. St Mary's, the village's parish church, is 14th century and has a curious belltower resembling a Japanese pagoda.
Also nearby: A string of other black-and-white villages are dotted between Leominster, the nearest big market town, and the Welsh border, including Dilwyn, Weobley, Eardisland and Kingsland. Also Dunkerton's Cider, where local varieties of organically-grown apples and pears are pressed. Burton Court, with its medieval great hall, is two miles away and run by a Mrs Simpson, a noted eccentric.

NICK NUTTALL



'To protect my young son from the evils of Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends, I introduced him to Enid Blyton and ... aaargh!'

The horror of holiday reading

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

I am very much afraid that when Alexander goes back to school in September and writes that essay that you always have to do at the beginning of the autumn term on 'What I Did On My Holidays', his teachers are going to conclude that I am a tyrant — or he is a hopeless swot. For what we have mainly been doing on our holidays so far is reading. Mountains and mountains of books.

It is all the fault of the weather. The day after we arrived in Devon it began to rain, and since then it has been pouring with a persistence that would be tropical if it were not so very English.

One effect of this is that whenever we think the weather forecast might be coming up on the telly, we all point, like gundogs, quivering towards the screen. I think we secretly hope that that nice Mr Fish might somehow be able to make it all better. This, however, he shows no signs of doing. On the contrary, he seems rather proud of the prodigious wetness lately achieved in the South West.

Now, this is all very well, but I have had firmly fixed in my mind all summer an image of myself draped like a mermaid among the limpets and bladder-

wrack while Alexander pored about doing whatever it is small boys do on seaside holidays. All this I had envisaged happening in the blazing sunshine. I hadn't planned for anything else.

My parents, however, are made of tougher stuff. Less optimistic and more resourceful than I, they have come equipped with a large selection of contingency plans — and a wide range of protective clothing in which to carry them out. So it is that I find myself trudging along at the rear of a sodden crocodile while my mother points out the beauties of the countryside.

When we have had enough of marching about in the wet, we go on dump visits to miniature steam railways. The South West is riddled with these. They are run by jovial, pink-cheeked old men in peaked caps who bear a sinister resemblance to Benny Hill. On the hard benches inside the miniature carriages sit rows of mummies, waiting patiently while their small sons engage in

complicated train discussions. Thomas the Tank Engine, as you might expect, figures large in these conversations.

"Did you know," I said to the mummy sitting next to me, as the train chugged round its circuit and our sons compared the size of their Thomas libraries, "that you can buy a book containing every Thomas story ever written?" "Oh, don't," said this mummy. "What a awful thought."

In fact, we own a copy of this book. It is known in our house as the "Thomas Bible" and has accompanied us to Devon, along with a great many other volumes, since I suffer from an uncontrollable dread of running out of things to read.

Having secured myself against having to fall back for entertainment on the nature notes by local lady belletrists, with which the cottage is generously stocked ("The oystercatchers pipe beside the rock pools as they scurry and hunt and, further out to sea, the loon shag still skims the waves..."), I have turned my attention to the reform of Alexander's reading habits. In particular, I have made a private vow never to read another story about Thomas and his friends, whose terrible snobishness and vituperation and ill-nature and bullying tendencies have been our nightly companions for almost two and a half years.

A few weeks ago, a little pile of Enid Blyton stories came into the office. With half an ear, I had been listening to the recent debate about whether she is A Good Thing. What everyone seemed to say, whether they approved or not, was that she is irresistible to children. I had a quick look at *The Caravan Family*, *The Saucy Jane Family* and the rest. They did not seem irresistible to me. Old-fashioned, and rather dull, I thought, but probably harmless.

When we got here, I put the Blyton books by Alexander's bed, hid the Thomas Bible, and waited to see what would happen. A silence, and then the chirping, murmuring noise that is the sound of him reading to himself. The chirping went on for a long time, and had begun again when I got up the next morning. I prepared to ring Thomas's death knell.

Eventually, after he had read them all twice, I thought I might take a closer look at these magical antidotes to the Rev

W. Awdry, only to find — guess what! — horrors undreamt of on the Island of Sodor. These are books in which, despite some clumsy updating (I wonder very much how the "Italian American" waiter and the "Afro-American" cleaner appeared in the unexpurgated text of *The Queen Elizabeth Family*), shyness, sensitivity and imagination are faults, and anyone displaying signs of them must be ruthlessly bullied until they desist. Here, small children are taken to exotic places by their parents only to discover that Ahraird is Bloody, and Foreigners are Filthy. "Oh, there's always an awful smell in these places," said mummy. "Look, here is my bottle of smelling salts. Hold it to your nose."

Dear me, I wonder what to do now. I can hardly impose a retrospective ban on my own brilliant innovation. But, meanwhile, here lies my son on the hearth rug absorbing attitudes whose Philistine self-confidence and lack of any redeeming doubt or irony will certainly qualify him for a place on the panel of some 21st-century edition of *The Moral Maze*.

Hey! Not Well, as dear old Thomas the Tank Engine was always so fond of saying, it Serves Me Jolly Well Right.

A spiritual taste of the Last Supper

Ruth Gledhill gives up her lunch to feast on the remarkable story of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece



SPOTLIGHT from above, his white hair was a halo of light atop a boyish face, his dog collar gleamed white amid the

encircling gloom. The rest of him, clothed in black and grey, disappeared into the darkness around him, a darkness relieved in the foreground by the muted gold light drifting down on to a "congregation" of nearly 300, and behind him by the most stunning "recreation" that any cleric could wish for: an image of Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper*. The Rev Tom Devonshire Jones, an Oxford Classics graduate and vicar of St Mark's, Regent's Park, London, founded the Art and Christianity Enquiry Trust in 1994 in an attempt to bring together the three separate disciplines of the visual arts, church and theology.

Technically, this was not a service or an act of worship, although it felt like one. Mr Devonshire Jones, an Oxford Classics graduate and vicar of St Mark's, Regent's Park, London, founded the Art and Christianity Enquiry Trust in 1994 in an attempt to bring together the three separate disciplines of the visual arts, church and theology.

The trust does not confine its activities to the gallery. There has been an evening at Westminster Abbey on the theme of God and the artist, where curators from the National and Tate galleries read the lessons and the abbey sacrist wrote a special litany, plus regular meetings, lectures and exhibitions, as well as visits to sites of recent art in places of worship.

The appeal of such an approach can be witnessed in the large numbers, in the hundreds, attending the "art and theology" study days.

Da Vinci's *Last Supper* is such an enduring image, one which has been copied and developed by countless artists, including Andy Warhol, in the centuries since Leonardo, that

it came as a shock to many to learn of the miracles by which it has survived.

Mr Devonshire Jones's lecture was accompanied by gasps and groans of dismay as he chronicled the extraordinary history of this mural on the wall of a convent refectory room in Milan. Early on, the feet of Christ were obliterated by a doorway inserted into the wall. Over the centuries, restorers have worked it, and then more recent restorers have attempted to remove the work of their predecessors.

Rising damp has led to the decay and loss of the paint surface. In 1796, Napoleon's advancing troops ignored orders to protect the convent and used it as a stable. And in the last war the building was reduced to rubble, with *The Last Supper* barely surviving on a standing wall and protected from wind and rain by no more than sandbags.

MANY reproductions today fail to take into account the original setting of the masterpiece. "The chummy greetings card on sale at your local Post Office has become confused beyond recognition, the disciples somehow aloft in their own chaises," Mr Devonshire Jones said.

He analysed the original. "Leonardo created a vision of Christ which, in beauty, serenity, sensitivity, meaning and gesture, strikes through its damaged surface to become the unforgettable image." Around this calm centre, he has, with remarkable psychological understanding, depicted "the confusion, distress, incomprehension, revulsion, disbelief of the 12 disciples".

I left the theatre with a better understanding, not only of the painting but of Christian theology. There had been no time for me to have lunch that day but, somehow, I was no longer hungry.

● Art and Christianity Enquiry Trust, 4 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7TX (0171-485 3077).

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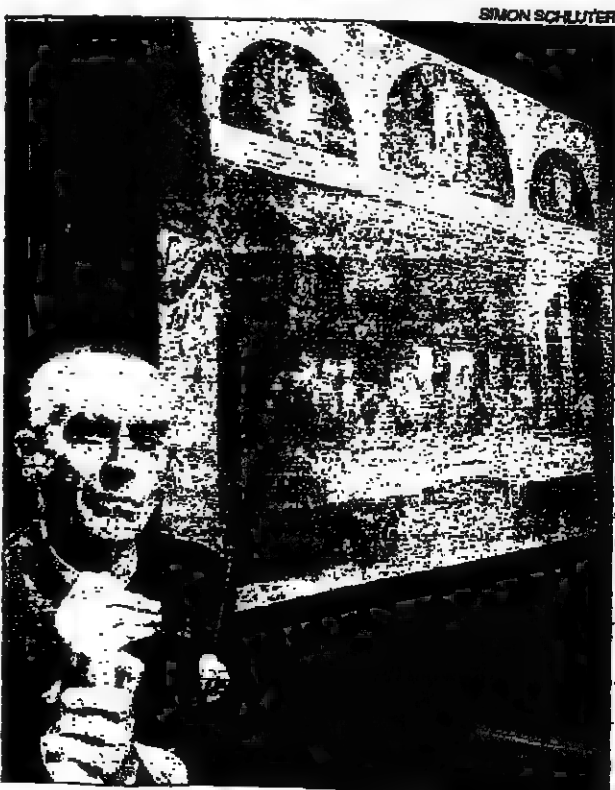
A five-star guide

DIRECTOR: Rev Tom Devonshire Jones

ARCHITECTURE: Beautiful clean lines, designed by Robert Venturi and completed in 1990, complementing William Wilkie's original neo-Classical gallery of 1838. ★★★★★

SERMON: Lecture on *The Last Supper*, an image of betrayal, described as at once "delicate and durable". ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Delectable ★★★★★



The Rev Tom Devonshire Jones with *The Last Supper*

Just give devilishly good presents

The Prince of Wales has 27 of them. Diana, Princess of Wales, is catching up and now has 17. With each new godchild you have to renounce the Devil and all his works. The children can be very expensive in terms of presents and there is no guarantee of receiving any thank-you letters.

Godchildren can bring together the most unlikely couples: Diane Abbott, the left-wing Labour MP for Hackney North and the first black woman MP, chose the now disgraced right-winger Jonathan Aitken as godfather for her son, James. Their friendship developed after the two of them were paired in the Commons.

There have been reports among the status-conscious in Manhattan of one mother who simply asked her favourite writers to be godparents to her children. Their names are said to have appeared on the baptismal register in exactly the same order as the New York Times bestseller list.

But whatever the nature of the relationship that leads to godparenthood, godchildren are generally with you for life. There are exceptions, however. Two years ago, Lord Glenconner's daughter-in-law, Tessa Tennant, announced that she was seeking her son Ewan's godfather, the political lobbyist Andrew Gifford, from the role. They had fallen out over a proposed super-quarry in the Western Isles.

But de-godparenting is a drastic step — the two of them still aren't speaking — and it is generally acknowledged that there is no divorce for those joined at the font. Curiously, for a spiritual job description, offers of godparenthood are often made on the basis of wealth and position. "I was amazed to be asked," said a not particularly rich friend after becoming a godmother for the fourth time, "because her name, pull her a title."

Social or spiritual, what do godparents actually do? Thelma Hill, who lives near Glastonbury in Somerset and is the central marketing coordinator for the Mothers Union, is emphatically in the spiritual camp and does a lot.

There is much more to being a good godparent than being a spiritual guardian for the children but, as Jill Parkin discovers, it is still a popular (although expensive) role

together and my husband and I spent Christmas at the rectory with Peter's family. She recommends a sense of humour to any godparent — one year she remembers receiving a beautifully wrapped Christmas present, which turned out to be a huge plastic spider. "We have no children of our own," she adds, "and godchildren have enriched my life. My husband and I also have several we regard as godchildren."

Peter Allon is a chiropractor, married with four children, whom Mrs Hill considers her god-grandchildren. As a child he had lots of people to meet his spiritual needs: one of his godfathers is an archdeacon who specialised in religious gifts, such as prayer books or a book of texts for each day of the year. "Thelma definitely had a Christian input, both by example and when we



Jonathan Aitken is godfather to Diane Abbott's son, James



and a comment here or there. I had no aunts and uncles and I think we filled family gaps for each other in a rewarding way. We've just had our four children christened all together and have chosen people we think will set them a good Christian example, and have fun with them."

There are a lot of godparents around. There may be families where godparents are disappointed when their grandchildren are not christened, but christening is still popular.

The Church of England says that although numbers are dropping one in four babies is christened (about 15,000 a year). The Roman Catholic Church says its baptism rate is steady, at between 70,000 to 80,000 a year since 1973.

"I have no problems renouncing the Devil and all his works," says Helen Whitaker, a 57-year-old

THE ROYALS AND THEIR GODCHILDREN



Diana, Princess of Wales with Lady Mary Wellesey

THE QUEEN: 30 godchildren, including Lord Porchester, heir to her racing manager, the Earl of Carrington. The 11th Duke of Northumberland, who died of kidney failure aged 42 in 1995, was also her godchild.

PRINCE OF WALES: 27 godchildren. Camilla Parker-Bowles's son, Tom, and Lady Tryst's son, Charles, are among them, along with Marica Mowatt, the daughter of Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy, and a sprinkling of descendants from his mentor, Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES: 17 godchildren. An eclectic bunch ranging from Lady Mary Wellesey, daughter of the Marquess of Douro, through to the children of European royalty — Prince Philippos, son of King Constantine of the Hellenes) to the children of Sir David Frost, Dominic Lawson and friends such as Carolyn Bartholomew.

PRINCESS ROYAL: ten godchildren. PRINCE ANDREW: eight. PRINCE EDWARD, seven. THE DUCHESS OF YORK is said to have 30.

John's 100,000

Your car about big h

The wrong-headed government crusade against tax dodgers won't raise any real cash — but it could end up wrecking an innocent person's vehicle

Road-fund war a crushing mistake

The vehicle excise duty, which most of us know as road tax, is a daft and expensive way of raising money. It should have been abolished years ago. But now some sort of Rambo complex has overtaken the Government, which this week launched a campaign to catch the minority who evade the tax altogether. What a waste of time.

This is one of those "initiatives" that comes along every August. Not much happening, politicians are still in business. Whenever action is taken against road tax dodgers, the grand-sounding figure of £175 million is wheeled out, which is what these parasites cost the economy every year.

You and I might well be able to enjoy the life of Riley on £175

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

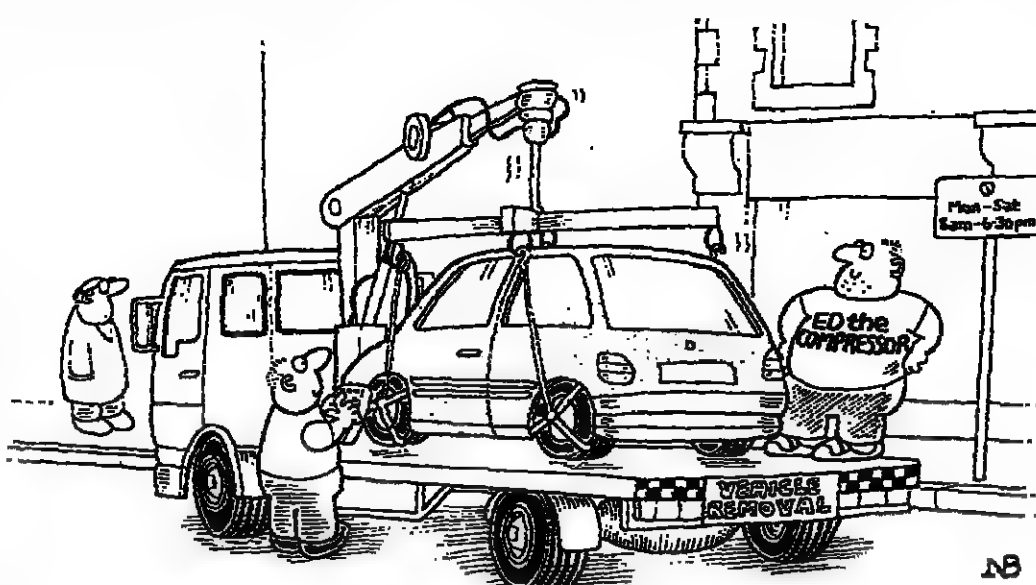
million, but it is in fact a trivial sum, enough to run the National Health Service for less than two days. Still, every penny counts, so no one who is opposed to wasting money could object to the Government going after road tax evaders. But is this the way? Starting in

London this month, and in the rest of the country next year, cars with no tax will be clamped initially, then towed away and, if not claimed and taxed after five weeks, they will be crushed or sold.

Most of the people who will be caught are not worth our sympathy. They are persistent offenders and that is why the motoring organisations have welcomed the government plan.

Thus there was not a whimper of discontent when the plan was announced on Tuesday, a launch involving the crushing of an elderly Ford Sierra. There will be a poster campaign using a crushed car and the caption, "Do you feel lucky, Dodger?" It all sounds terribly macho. And wrong.

Road tax dodgers may not deserve sympathy, although I suspect some people, especially



students and pensioners, find the ever-rising sum for road tax hard to raise (which is why I favour having the tax subsumed into petrol prices: one can always save money by not driving). Whatever the reason for not paying the tax, I fail to see how the Government can justify taking away a car and turning it into "a lump of metal

four feet square", as *The Times* reported on Tuesday.

A pilot scheme in five London boroughs last year raised £6 for every £1 spent on chasing offenders, so a considerable number of cars must have been seized and sold. Clearly many of the seized vehicles disappeared from the mainstream long ago and have

been stolen and sold on so many times that we need not waste sympathy on the nominal owner.

This does not alter the fact that mistakes are bound to happen. Baroness Hayman, the roads minister, said this week that "law-abiding motorists have nothing to fear", but it cannot be long before some chap returns from three

months in Tuscany to find that his precious BMW has been turned into 50,000 ashtrays or sold at auction to Del Boy.

Lawyers are in for a field day when that happens, and although I am all for anything that provides newspapers with entertaining stories (Nun's car crushed while she had audience with Queen), I would have thought that this scheme was fraught with difficulties in return for not very much in the way of revenue.

And where will the money go? Why, to the dear old Treasury of course. A private firm has been hired to comb the streets for offenders and the money raised will be sent directly to the Treasury. Therefore, as with all other moneys raised from the motorist, this will disappear into a black hole rather than being spent on transport.

Nor will I be surprised if the roadsides start filling up with old bangers. After all, if a car worth only a few hundred pounds needs taxing, why not park it at the side of the road and walk away? Perhaps the car crushers, like the bus operators, should publish a timetable and a route, so that we know where to find them. Room for one more inside?

Green road tolls for Leicester cars

Men are proving reluctant to join a new clean-air project, Eve-Ann Prentice reports

Leicester — which this week began charging drivers who take their cars into the city centre — seems an unlikely place for such a radical attempt to ease traffic jams.

Step from the train (it seems the most prudent way to arrive) and you feel you have walked into an architect's drawing of an urban Shangri-la. Pristine, uncluttered pavements dotted with unobtrusive wooden signposts direct pedestrians to key points in the city, indicating that motorised traffic is not king here. Glaringly new red and yellow paint marks out cycleways and bus routes.

Yet it is precisely because Leicester prides itself on its green credentials that the city council has become the first in the country to begin charging motorists for the privilege of driving into town, in an eight-month experiment being closely watched by the Government.

The main aim of the trial is to discover how much people will pay before deciding enough is enough and they abandon their cars and travel to work by public transport.

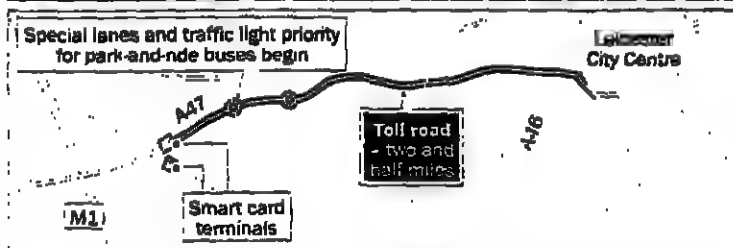
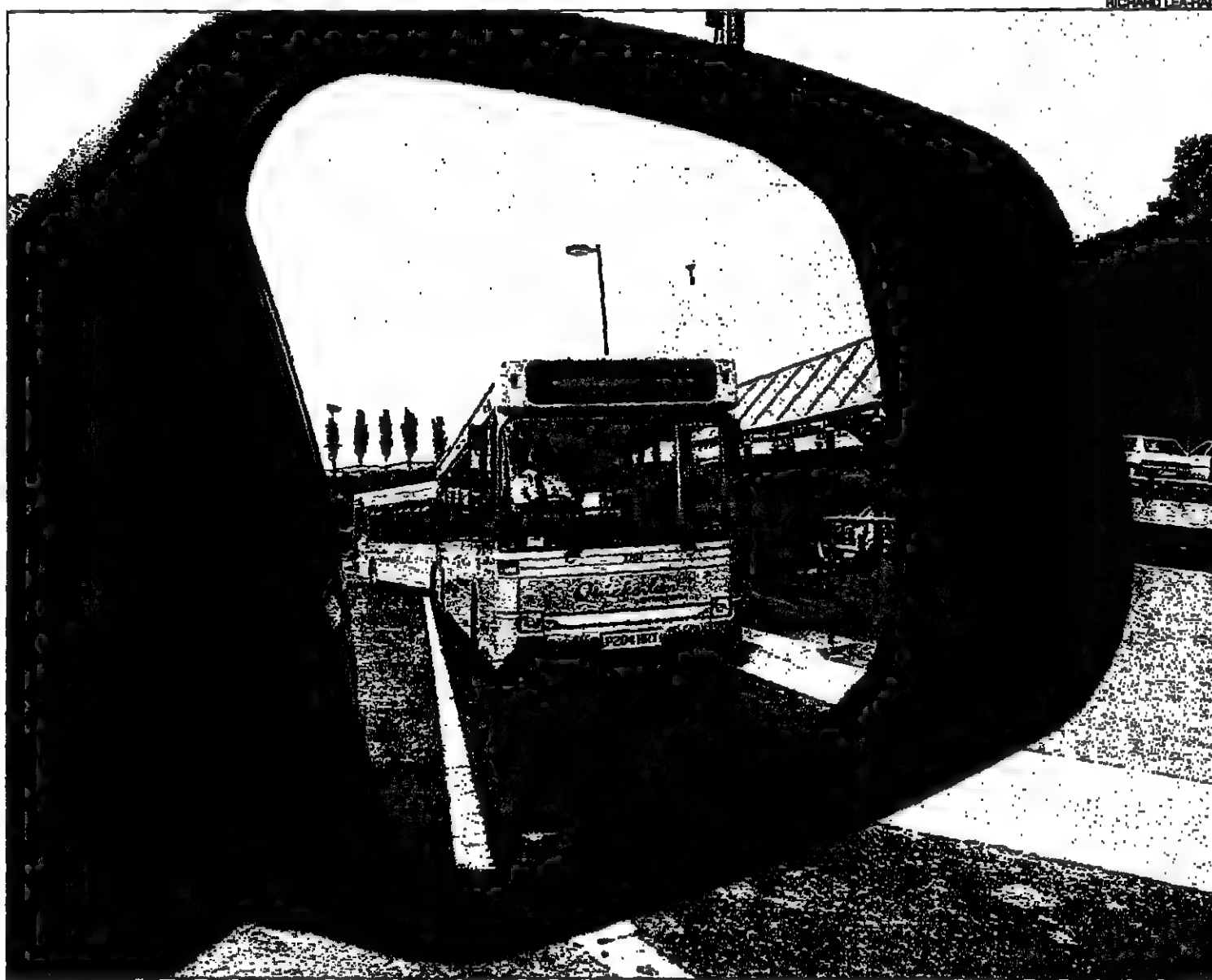
So far, the only people paying the charges — ranging from £2 to £10 depending on pollution and traffic levels — are volunteers picked from all sections of Leicester society. About 20 this week began using the two-and-a-half-mile toll road leading from near the junction with the M1 into the city centre, while another 80 will join the experiment in the next week or two.

The trial, backed by the Transport Department and the European Commission, will cost £2.5 million — £1 million per mile.

The volunteers have been given electronic charge cards which are automatically debited every time they pass special beacons on the toll road. The cards have been credited with funds by the council, but they are allowed to keep some of the money they save if they opt instead to use a new park-and-ride bus into town.

Four new park-and-ride buses, which have special lanes and will soon be given priority at traffic lights along the toll route, have been bought for £50,000 each and the drivers have been given special "customer care" instruction in an attempt to make the buses more attractive to drivers unaccustomed to the cut and thrust of public transport.

The bus takes about ten minutes into town from the outskirts, com-



Park-and-ride uses special buses with customer-friendly drivers

pared with 20-45 minutes for most rush-hour cars. The city was not able to produce much of a rush hour this week because school holidays have drastically cut the traffic. The park-and-ride return fare is £1.50, compared with around £4 a day for a car park place in the centre.

Eddie Tyrer, coordinator of the Leicester Environmental Road Tolling Scheme, affectionately shortened to Lerts, says: "The traffic situation in Leicester and elsewhere will get

worse no matter what we do, but we want to stop it getting as bad as it could if we did nothing. What we are doing is not anti-car. We are seeking a shift, a change in attitude."

Equipment for the experiment has come from Trondheim in Norway, where similar toll roads have been in operation for eight years.

Is the Leicester scheme likely to grow from the experimental stage to long-term everyday use? Two hurdles may stand in its way: money and a

male reluctance to prise their fingers off the steering wheel.

The car park at the park-and-ride centre cost £1 million — the city council already owned the land, and an encampment of gipsies lost their site. A similar park-and-ride centre at another key entry point to the city, at Fosse Park, would cost £5 million.

There are also signs that big retail traders are less than happy about the prospect of cars being persuaded away from the city centre. Mr Tyrer says, however, that a free-flowing and cleaner city is in everyone's interest.

The reluctance of men to leave their cars was meanwhile becoming evident on the third day of the toll experiment. Far more women than men have been using the park-and-ride service, according to the bus drivers and Mr Tyrer, and the only

male to be seen on board one of the city-bound buses admitted that he would far rather have been at the wheel of his car, and was only using the bus to please his girlfriend sitting beside him.

Women are more enthusiastic about the bus. "I was a bit sceptical at first because I like having my stereo and my comfort on the way to work," says Elaine Keen. "But having used the bus I am very pleased; there is no road rage, no stopping and starting in traffic and no parking problems. And it takes me ten minutes instead of three-quarters of an hour."

David Wright, the city council's team leader for system support projects and technical wizard behind the new scheme, is meanwhile, not leaving his car in the garage. "I need a car for work, sometimes at short notice," he says.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON
A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic.
A406 Angel Edmonton. Major works at the A1010 Fore Street.

A113 Chigwell Road, Woodford Green: single alternate traffic between Manor Road and Glynnes Hill Road.

A2512 Grosvenor Road, Clontarf between Clontarf Street and Lupus Street.

A237 Manor Road, Wallington: single alternate traffic at the junction with Brierley Road.

A1209 Bodmin Green Road, Long-term roadworks between Vallance Road and Cambridge Heath Road.

A512 Faggs Road, Farnham. Carriageway reduced to one lane each way due to long term bridge maintenance at Faggs Bridge, north of Staines Road, between Barn and Spn.

● SOUTH-EAST
A24 Berkshire. Contrailow and narrow lanes with 40mph limit between M4 junction 13 and Newbury.

A4 Padworth, Berkshire. Temporary lights at junction with A340.

M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a contrailow between junctions 1a (M25) and 5 (Wycombe East).

A3 Hampshire. Longmoor Junction, Greattham. Carriageway reduced to one lane northbound between Ham Barn Roundabout and Longmoor, southbound between Griggs Green and Longmoor.

A41 Watford. Eastbound lane closure on North Western Avenue from Hunton Bridge roundabout to Leavenworth Green Interchange.

A414 Hertfordshire. Roadworks on St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead.

M2 Rochester, Kent. Roadworks with various lane closures.

M40 Oxfordshire. Resurfacing work between Watlington and Oxford. Drivers heading to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use the A40 and A418.

M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.

A24 Farnham Bypass. Lane closure northbound between Quadrangle and Long Furlong.

● SOUTH-WEST
A38 Old Bodmin Bridge. Lane closures on Bodmin roundabout.

M5 Bristol. Contrailow across Avonmouth bridge.

A432 Downend Road Bristol. Temporary lights at junction with Crookes Hill and Shrubbery Road.

A390 Cornwall. Lane restrictions in centre of Truro at

the Trefalgar roundabout.

A417 Malmesbury Bridge, Gloucestershire. Temporary lights during bridge work.

● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA
A1 between Aconbury Hill and Alwalton, Cambridgeshire. Construction work with lane closures, contrailow and 50mph limit.

A1363 Cambridgeshire. Lane closure and traffic controls on Newmarket Road and Airport way.

A1074 Norwich. Narrow lanes southbound between Larkman Lane and Sweet Briar Road roundabout.

A52 Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Major roadworks on Derby Road.

A6 Leicestershire. Roadworks between M1 junction 24 and Sawley Island.

M54 Staffordshire. Contrailow with westbound traffic on the shoulder.

Eastbound on to lanes 1 and of westbound carriageway.

A60 Stoke-on-Trent: major roadworks in the M6 area at junction with A632.

M6 Staffordshire. Contrailow between junctions 14 and 15.

A1101 Middlesbrough. Closed at the Kingsway between Lark Road and Kings Street.

● NORTH
A578 Warrington. Winwick link road closed.

M6 Cumbria. One lane closed both ways between junctions 36 and 37.

A68 Manchester. Closed southbound on Park Road between A6 and Cricketers Way, and between the Chaucer Roundabout and Wade Lane.

A19 between Thornaby-on-Tees and Billingham, Cleveland. Major roadworks with two lanes each way and 50mph limit.

M1 South Yorkshire. 30mph limit at junction 47. Delays on M1, M62 and A665.

A134 Tyne and Wear. Contrailow on Felling bypass.

M1 West Yorkshire. Junctions 43 to 42 Stourton to Lofthouse junction.

Contrailow and 50mph limit.

● WALES
A484 Carmarthenshire. Major roadworks on Francis Well.

A445 Monmouthshire. Long delays between Usk junction and the M4 junction 24 at Newport.

A472 Torsian. Contrailow at Porthpool.

A485 Carmarthenshire. Temporary lights at Duan Villa, Llanybyther.

● SCOTLAND
M9 Edinburgh. Long-term roadworks and restrictions on Newburgh city bypass.

A725 Edinburgh city bypass. Contrailow between Lothianburn and Dregthorn.

M90 Friction Bridge, Perth and Kinross. Contrailow.

Continued from page 1
would not get booted away. "So what was the problem? Why the endless abuse?"

The styling was far from dreadful. The performance was more than competent. It was user-friendly. Some models even had an advanced Teletouch Drive that changed gears in the automatic box electronically. The Edsel may have suffered from an ill-conceived launch, but that doth not a turkey make.

According to both Garrow and Human, the real problem was marketing — there was simply no gap in the market for a car like the Edsel.

"It was the right car at the wrong time," says Mr Garrow. "Ford were trying to produce a stepping-stone between the low end of the market — such as the Mercury — and the top end — such as the Lincoln. But in the middle, where the Edsel was aimed, there was already a lot of

competition, such as Dodge, Pontiac and Oldsmobile.

"Nobody was that interested in the Edsel when they realised it simply wasn't that special," Mr Human puts the problem into a modern context: "It was a bit like being promised an Escort Ghia and being given an Escort 1300. The Edsel was simply not different enough," he says.

To be harsh, the Edsel should never have been made. It was commercially unnecessary, but as a piece of automotive machinery it should be allowed to hold its head up higher than most. Do you really want to know what the Edsel is? It's fine, just fine.

Dream Cars. 8-10 Ingate Place, London SW8 3NS 0171-637 5775

Gavin Garrow, Edsel Owners' Club, 01932 848532

Internet: <http://decker.colorado.edu/Fasick/Edsel/>

FORD EDSSEL

Engine: 6-cyl-litre V8. Top Speed: 125mph. Equipment: Power steering, Teletouch gearchange, self-adjusting brakes, air conditioning, electric windows, speed alarm, panel-mounted compass, electric seats.

Now that CAR 97 has debunked the myth that the Edsel is the world's worst car, we are inviting readers to nominate an alternative. How about the Bond Bug? Or the Morris Marina? Anyone for the Triumph TR7? Readers should send in no more than 250 words to: *The World's Worst Car, CAR 97, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN.* All published entries will receive a suitably dreadful prize.

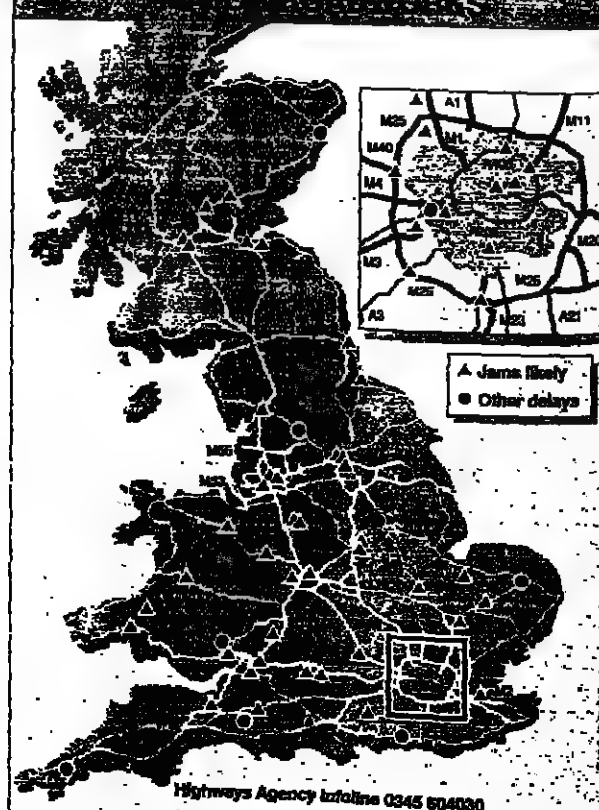
BRITISH CARS MOST SECURE

■ BRITISH cars dominated the first security league table drawn up by *What Car?* magazine this week. The Jaguar XK8 proved to be the most thief-resistant motor on the road, sharing top spot with the Range Rover 4.0 SE.

Using a team of specialists from the Master Locksmiths' Association, the magazine tested 72 cars to see if they would meet Home Office guidelines: that a thief should be unable to enter a fully locked car within

two minutes and should be unable to drive away (without the key) for a further five minutes.

Only eight cars passed both tests. BMW's M3 Evolution Coupé and 750i tied for third place and the Audi A6 was fifth, equal with Ford's Fiesta 1.25 Ghia — proving top security is not only for upmarket cars. The Jaguar XJ6 and Volkswagen Passat also passed both tests. The Renault Clio 1.4 RT came last.



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AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

DURING A DEMONSTRATION FOR PRINCESS MARGARET AT THE 1950 MOTOR SHOW, TRIUMPH CHAIRMAN SIR JOHN BLACK PULLED THE WAGON SWITCH AND INCENDIARIED HIS TRX PONTIAC...

THE ORIGINAL TVR WAS MARKETING IN AMERICA AS THE JOMAR Mk 2

PRESTON TUCKER LEASED THE WORLD'S BIGGEST FACTORY UNDER ONE ROOF, BUT BOUGHT FEWER THAN 50 CARS BEFORE GOING UNDER...

GUY LIGIER IS THE ONLY RUSH INTERNATIONAL TO HAVE BUILT AND ROLLED HIS OWN CAR.

John's car 1950

MOTORCYCLING MONTH: MAKING THE BIG TRIPS WITH BRITAIN'S LATEST PASSION

On tour with the eccentrics

America and Italy are invading each other's traditional niches: John Naish rides two of the motorcycle market's most esoteric mile-eating machines

Summer time, and a motorcyclist's thoughts turn to making that big trip, riding into distant sunsets with troubles left far behind. But while many epic rides might only end at the nearest seaside café, the motorcycle touring market is in rude health: modern suspension and tyres have transformed large motorcycles into machines that can both do serious distances and handle bends almost as slickly as their sportbike cousins.

Few tourers get more esoteric than the two I rode the length and breadth of England — Moto Guzzi's 1,000cc California and the newly launched Buell S3T Thunderbolt.

Guzzi's California has been around for more than 20 years, with each incarnation emerging from the Italian factory bigger, flashier and ever more high-tech.

The bike's name and cruiser styling may owe their allegiance to the Land of the Free, but the motor is as Latin as the Coliseum — and in motorcycling terms just as ancient. It's a powerplant that snarls its presence as soon as you heft the bike off its stand and fire the electric start. Wump. The whole machine pulls over to one side as engine torque twists the bike on its axis.

But the motor doesn't have a monopoly on first impressions. The styling is straight out of the Harley-Davidson school of in-your-face custom and chrome. Many bikers

love machines that shout, "Hey, look over here, impressive motorcyclist!" Others, like me, consider it the two-wheel equivalent of a sick-on hairy chest. Crowds of passers-by loved it, though.

Instantly, you know you are on one big lump of bike. You sit in the bike rather than on it, sinking into the stepped seat, your hands stretching up to the raised bars. And there's no jiggly footpegs either — the California has footboards to reinforce that cruiser image.

Thankfully, this is not just a big old bike with a cosmetics-first philosophy. It's much more than a pretty face.

That old motor comes with a bag of modern tricks, not least a fuel-injection that ensures reliable, chokeless starting and delivers deep, wide power that makes for serious mile-eating ability. At motorway and autobahn speeds, simply stick it in top gear and the motor will go from 60 to over the ton at the twist of the throttle and sit happily at any speed between. The massive screen keeps the wind off the rider's chest, staving off the fatigue that accompanies long rides.

For all that heavy metal and

CALIFORNIA
Engine: 1,064cc 90-degree V-twin.
Maximum speed: 120mph.
Fuel consumption: 45mpg.
Weight: 245kg.
Seat height: 30.5in.
Equipment: Electronic fuel injection, linked braking system, screen, panniers.
Price: £8,345 on the road.

chrome, the bike corners in fine Italian style. Only when pressed hard on sweeping curves does it betray signs of wallowing — and then it takes a bumpy surface. On smaller A-roads the California can hustle with alacrity: its size makes it feel barge-like and unwilling at first, but show it who's boss and it will go just where you push it.

And it stops well, too: the brakes are linked, using Guzzi's renowned system; pressing the foot-pedal operates the rear brake and one front disc proportionately. The handlebar lever brings in the other front disc. For brick-wall quick emergency braking.

What spoils this fine machine is the power train. The California's heel-and-toe gearshift pedal looks part of the easy-rider pose. But you



Buell's designer-tough looks are not to all bikers' taste, but at the heart of this innovation lies a tuned version of Harley's V-twin

need it. Gear-changing takes a hefty boot, and is seldom achieved without a resounding clang. It makes town work tiring.

The shaft-drive is haunted by the old problem of torque reaction, which lifts the bike's rear when accelerating hard and can take the bike off its line through corners.

Afficionados call this kind of thing "character" — something the California has in abundance. The Guzzi demands you change your riding style to accommodate it, and things did get easier as the miles went by.

Moto Guzzi is currently introducing improvements to the 1997 model, uprating the suspension and braking systems — and there's more chrome too. The technical improvements are bound to make a good bike even better, but I wish they would take a serious look at the gearbox.

While the Italians are improving their version of an American

land-raiser, the Americans are introducing their idea of a fast, European-style tourer. In a curious parallel, they are using an engine that can trace its history to US motorcycling's roots.

Buell only began selling motorcycles in Britain last year, but the bikes are built around the big daddy of famous bike names — Harley-Davidson. Buell's S3T Thunderbolt is no Yankee cruiser, however. The looks and ride are utterly different.

Erik Buell, engineer and racer, began building bikes around tuned Harley engines in 1983. Harley-Davidson was so impressed, it bought a stake in the company to enable it to expand — and get Harley into the sportsbike market.

The Thunderbolt is top of the new Buell range: it mixes the ancient — Harley's venerable V-twin, with the ultra-modern — high-tech suspension that includes a strange under-slung rear shock absorber, Kevlar-reinforced belt-drive and a sub-chassis that isolates engine vibration from the rider. This is topped off with brutalist looks.

I suspected the Buell might be a toy to satisfy the latest executive must-have whim, but the idea was soon dispelled. The bike had a tough first test — battling from London to Morecambe in torrential summer rain. If I hadn't been on a mercy mission, I would have turned back. If the Buell hadn't been a serious sports-tourer, we wouldn't have made it.

Erik Buell makes bikes the way he thinks a bike should be — idiosyncratic and all. The seat, footpegs and handlebars put you into a racier crouch, and the

engine is a world apart from those fitted to Harley's. Low-down grunt is sacrificed for a wide mass of mid-range power.

But while the Thunderbolt can bolt, it doesn't thunder. An odd-looking underslung stovepipe silences the motor massively. And gone are the Harley vibes, no, thanks to the chassis. It's an odd sensation, being shot down the road by an engine that you just know shouldn't sound like that.

Not all of the Buell's idiosyncratic nature is so pleasing; Buell does not think his bikes need an effective rear stopper, believing that the combination of massive front discs and engine braking is ample. Maybe, but why not fit a decent back brake anyway? The one currently fitted could hardly grace a moped.

The importers are looking to improve it.

The fuel tap is awfully sited, hidden away under the tank. Twice I had to pull on to the motorway hard shoulder, engine spluttering, while a gloved hand groped desperately for the reserve tank position.

The bike's gearbox, a standard Harley Sportster item, finds it hard to keep up with the tuned engine. Tentative changing is onerous but necessary.

I quite liked its slightly knocked-together appearance, but other motorcyclists questioned whether the quality matched the cost.

But somehow these are niggles. For anyone who wants something as enigmatic as a Buell — and is prepared to pay the high purchase price — satisfaction awaits. Bikes only possess such irascible character when created by enthusiasts — which in marketing-dominated modern motorcycling makes it a rare beast, probably demanding a rare owner.

The combination of taut chassis and massive mid-range punch makes the bike a great A-road scorcher. Higher-tuned sports bikes may make much more

shouldn't be as smooth as that, and certainly shouldn't go like that.

The Buell handles sharply, underlining the difference between the sports-tourer and cruiser-tourer philosophies. Suspension is taut, and the bike even manages to feel small when on the move, but this does not stop it being a capable motorway bike, although the sporty fairing keeps little wind off the pilot.

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BIKE 97 SUMMER SPECIAL

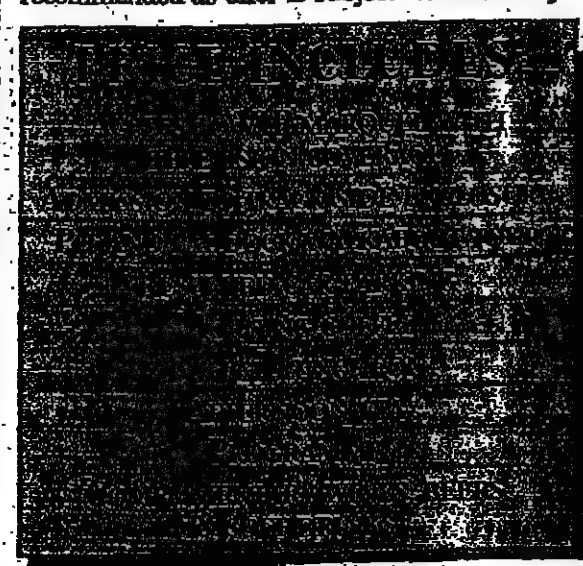


California improvements for 1997 include tauter suspension units and even more chrome

BUELL S3T
Engine: 1,203cc air-cooled 45-degree V-twin.
Maximum speed: 125mph.
Fuel consumption: 40mpg.
Seat height: 29.5in/74.93cm.
Equipment: Sports fairing, leg shields, panniers.
Price: £10,495.

1997 British Motorcycling Grand Prix
Donington Park Motor Circuit
Sunday 17th August
£115 per person

THE TIMES and Elegant Days have teamed up to offer readers fantastic savings on a first-class day out. For only £115 per person you will be entertained in a luxury marquee located within the VIP village. The site offers superb views over Redgate Corner and is within easy access of the grandstands and start/finish line. The normal cost of this package is around £240 per person. Early booking is recommended as offer is subject to availability.



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Mileage kings who ride the world

John Naish reports on intrepid men and women travellers' tales

Touring's modern flashy image might suggest that only young men with specialised machines should venture beyond a 50-mile radius of home. Not true: all you need is a bike, cash, roads and a destination.

Motorcycling has a proud tradition of covering incredible distances on unlikely machines, and latest in this line is Jeremy Pascoe, who has just returned from touring the world on a Honda Fireblade — a highly strung 170mph sportsbike that makes no concessions to comfort or, one would think, longevity.

Pascoe took a year off from working in advertising to raise money for the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund. His 81,000-mile trip took him throughout the EC and Eastern Europe, from Canada through the United States and into South America, where he was robbed at gunpoint of almost everything bar the bike.

He then went on to lap Australia twice — once against the clock. On the way, he hit a kangaroo at 140mph. Pascoe, who is in his 30s, sustained three broken fingers, a dislocated shoulder and a fractured knee; he had to put the shoulder back himself, then ride 110 miles to hospital.

He then attempted the round-Australia record, usually done in cars by teams of co-drivers. "It was just madness. I couldn't have gone any quicker," he says. "The need to sleep defeated me — I was riding about 18 hours a day, and at one point I just had to sleep for eight hours." He only missed the record by around three hours, completing the 8,912-mile journey in nine days, 18 hours, 34 minutes.

Now back in London, both man and bike are in good fettle. "The bike looks remarkably good, considering the 'roo damage, and it's going superbly," he says. But the bike may have seen the last of its road days. "It's being retired, and will live in the front room of my flat now. I'd be devastated if it ever got nicked."

Stuart Jenkinson is another distance king. But the 70-year-old has spent 43 years totalling 600,000 miles — all on the same machine. Jenkinson runs Bike & Sun Tours International, operating two-week guided-holiday tours around Europe for groups of up to 20 motorcyclists. "We don't set out in convoy, riders journey

as they wish along recommended routes and meet in the evenings at the hotels we stay in," he says.

Jenkinson's mount, a Vincent Black Prince, is the type of bike you would expect more to see nowadays gracing museums or collectors' shelves. But he has no thoughts of retiring the bike he bought new in 1955. "I've developed it over the years, and while I've been sidelined a couple of times by breakdowns, with a Vincent you can usually get it going from the side of the road."

Touring is by no means a male preserve, either: Sheonagh Ravensdale, British captain of the Women's International Motorcycle Association, has organised tours in Europe, Japan and Australia, and is planning a tour of Zimbabwe. "Male partners are welcome too, but our runs are extremely civilised."

Ravensdale has also gathered ten restored British motorcycles from the 30s to the 70s for a new venture, Classic Bike Tours, which offers bikers the chance to take these fine old thumpers on four to eight-day guided rides around quiet regions of the UK.

For the more intrepid, H-C Travel offers a wide, wild range of experiences: how about biking up to Machu Picchu in Peru, or riding over the world's highest path, in Northern India? H-C's David Grist says "You always have an element of risk with these tours, but we ensure that they are well sorted."

TOURING TIPS
■ **INSURANCE:** you need a green card to take your bike abroad. Check with your insurer — some provide them free, others charge a premium.
■ **BREAKDOWNS:** A number of companies offer European recovery services: both the AA and RAC include motorbikes under their motoring schemes, and both standard road cover schemes include roadside assistance, recovery, bike repairs, replacement vehicle hire costs, repatriation of the bike and hotel bills.
Seven days' recovery and medical insurance costs

£57.75 with the RAC. £52 with the AA.

■ **WHAT TO TAKE:** the absolute minimum. Pack heavier luggage as low down and far forward as possible, or it will lift the front wheel. Tank bags can help here. Pack your panniers with equal weights.

■ **GOING TO EUROPE:** Check with your ferry operators for seasonal specials but ensure that the cargo handlers lash your bike down properly. Eurostar offers cheaper night-time travel, charging £37.50 for a five-day return if you go between 10pm and 6am.



Stuart Jenkinson with the 600,000-mile 1950s Vincent that he has owned since new

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Go to work on an icon

Vespa's neat,
nippy scooter
beats the city
rush, Linda
Galloway says

Choosing a form of transport for the city involves a number of decisions: how much to spend, how often it will be used, fuel consumption, maintenance, parking... and looks. Scooters score high on this checklist. And when you say the word scooter, the name Vespa springs to mind.

After all, it's a cultural icon; the manufacturer has been around for 50 years and none of its competitors carries the cachet that comes with the distinctive Italian styling.

The ET2 is Vespa parent company Piaggio's entry-level machine — a 50cc engine in a new body that is instantly Vespa. Modern styling exaggerates the curves of the tidy, streamlined design, with the mirrors set in bulging, insect-like antennae. The instruments go beyond the basic speedometer and indicators to luxuries such as a digital clock and a petrol light — handy on a small bike with a little tank.

The ET2 has all the features one associates with scooters — it's light and easy to manoeuvre, has twist-and-go technology, a comfortable riding position, low fuel consumption and requires only low maintenance.

The added bonus with the 50cc, although it is restricted to 30mph, is that it doesn't require a separate motorcycle licence and is ideal for first-timers — fulfilling the Vespa's original brief to provide an outlet for youngsters wanting independence.

Very much a city run-around, it performs the task easily enough although the tiny wheels struggled a bit with inner-city "traffic calming" speed bumps, the biggest obstacle they were called upon to negotiate.

It is simple to filter through



Modernised lines accentuate the Vespa's good looks while upgrading its equipment

VESPA ET2

Engine: 50cc single cylinder 2-stroke.
Transmission: automatic.
Maximum speed: 30mph (restricted).
Consumption: 48.5km/l.
Weight: 96kg.
Price: £1,099.

speed and it is frustrating not to have that extra surge of acceleration.

Using it to commute to work was a boon, although when cruising at top speed I had irritable drivers impatient to get past me. Let them rush, I thought, enjoying a less stressful journey at a dignified — and legal — pace.

While being on a motorcycle means getting bogged up in more protective gear than one would need to catch a bus, the benefits of being able to nip through the traffic more than compensate.

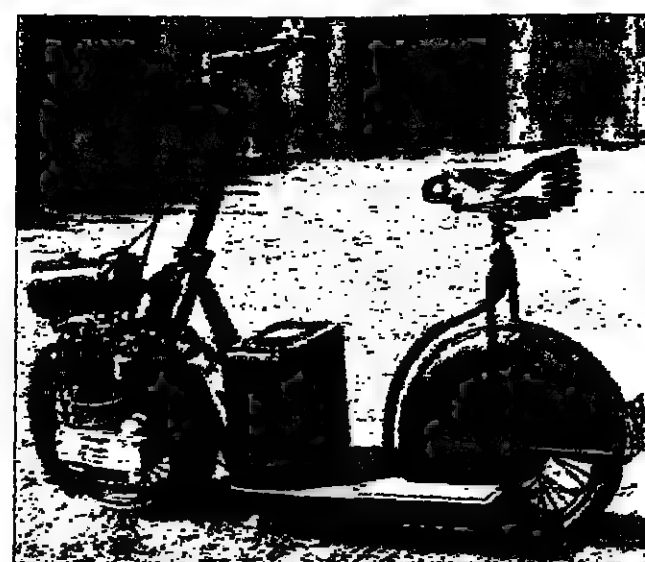
Once you get where you're going, parking is a cinch (and mostly free) and the compartment under the seat, which handily stows a larger-than-average handbag while in transit, then accommodates

the cumbersome helmet while you're away. The rack at the back is perfect for briefcases.

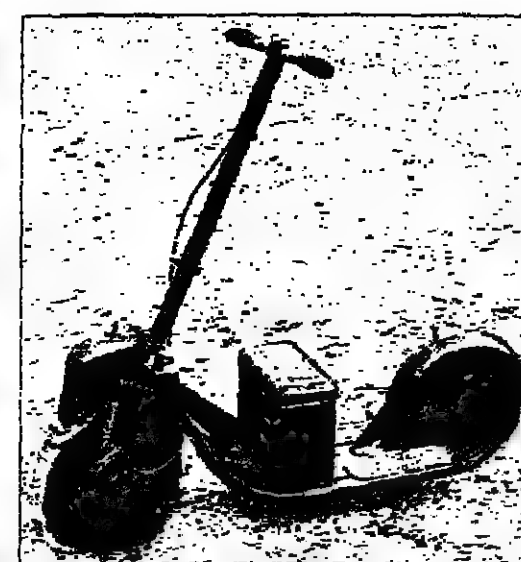
The knees-together riding position may seem prissy by comparison with motorbikes, but it means you are not restricted to trousers, which might necessitate a change of clothing once you reach the office.

There is also a range of accessories that will convert the scooter into a pack horse, with front and back luggage racks or a topbox, and a screen for weather protection.

Although some of the original arguments against scootering remain — unpredictable weather, uneven road surfaces, mad car drivers — Nineties engineering has easily answered any questions over reliability.



Scooters like these 1916 Autoped Ever Readys were put on the market to catch the postwar wave of popularity



More MoD than mod

The car may have come first, but the idea that two wheels were better than four was not far behind. The cult of the scooter may have emerged in the Fifties, with the refinement of design that the early Italian machines brought. But scootermania first took hold in London in 1919, following the First World War.

The hype at the time was focused on an American model called the Autoped — Selfridges claimed that if it had enough stock it could have sold 100 a day — although a model called the Max had been exhibited at the Stanley Show in London in 1907, and a three-wheeled machine called the MotoFrip had been

The first fad followed the armistice, says
Linda Galloway

exhibited at Olympia in 1911, to little acclaim.

The summer of 1919 was hot and heady — wages had doubled during the war years, with few commodities available to buy, and demobilised soldiers, sailors and airmen had service gratuities to spend. The demand for motorcycles was high and there were not enough to go round.

The motorcycling press denounced the scooter's riding position, while recognising its low cost, light weight and low fuel consumption, but the main complaint seemed to be that America was about to swamp the market.

But the first British scooter was about to be launched. The Skootamota had no suspension, and relied on large wheels and tyres to absorb road shocks. The frame was welded steel tubing and the 125cc four-stroke engine was, in effect, half of an ABC flat-twin trench-pump unit. It had a top speed of 30mph and returned at least 120mpg.

In its original form the Skootamota, designed by Granville Bradshaw and built by Gilbert Cumppling Ltd, had the rider standing up, but by the time it was on sale a saddle had been added. It cost £40 and outsold all its later rivals, which were being announced almost daily.

Some of the contenders were crudely designed and even dangerous, and most never made it into production. A front-wheel drive formula was favoured but the drawbacks to this were recognised early on — if the engine backfired on starting the whole thing would pivot, depositing the driver in a heap, and steering was problematic.

One of the better and most long-lived designs was the G.S.C. Autocycle, marketed as the Kenilworth, and built by Captain Smith Clarke for his wife. It was more of a miniature motorcycle, and had a 142cc Norman engine.

Despite the positive press, very few scooters actually made it into production, and after an incontinent summer and rising inflation in 1920, *Motor Cycling* magazine pointed out the harsh reality: "The sun does not always shine, roads are not always smooth, engines do break down."

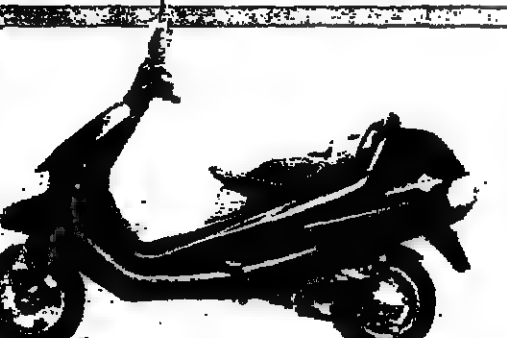
So it was not until 1950, another world war later, that design, production and demand coalesced for a successful assault on the market.



Autoglider: plain dangerous

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

WIN ONE OF 7 SCOOTERS



This week *The Times*, in association with Piaggio, gives you the chance to win one of seven fabulous scooters. They are worth approximately £11,600 in total. Scooters are the nineties way to get about. Fast, safe, the best way to beat traffic jams, they are also as environmentally friendly as motorised wheels get. They cost about three pence a mile to run and in most places there is free parking. All Piaggio scooters come with a dual seat and you can store luggage or a helmet.

The Vespa was first created 50 years ago and more than 15 million have been sold worldwide. A recognised style icon, we launch our prize draw with the Vespa ET2 which is brought up to date with the latest technology but retains the style of the classic Vespa. The Piaggio scooter prizes are: Vespa ET2 (main prize) and, clockwise from the bottom left: Liberty 50cc, Vespa ET4, NRG and Zip SP (Sport Production) both come with free insurance; Vespa ET2; and Hexagon 125cc.

HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect four of the seven tokens which will appear in *The Times* this week and send them with the completed entry form which will be published on Thursday. On the entry form you should state which bike you would like to win. The closing date for entries is Friday September 12, 1997. Readers must be over 16 to enter.

THE TIMES



PIAGGIO

TOKEN 1

NEXT WEEK: WIN THE NEW BMW CRUISER

THE TIMES

A black and white photograph of a vintage 1930s sedan, likely a Ford Model A, parked in front of a building. A man in a suit stands to the right of the car, looking towards the camera. The car features a prominent grille, large wheels, and a boxy body style characteristic of the era. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost posterized appearance.

Society — commendably concerned about the threat of engulfment of their town by Milton Keynes — proposed that residents' memories of old *marques* be recorded. Mr. Morgan and Humber were favourite subjects.

So, too, was Tickford, the name given to the Salmon company after it was sold to Ian Banbury. The company was subsequently bought by Aston Martin in 1954.

One of the original Salmon family homes, "Sunnyside" in Tickford Street, is the headquarters of Aston Martin Lagonda, and the Salmon and Tickford Enthusiasts Club gathers there for a rally on Monday. It will be modest but important assertion of Newport Pagnell place in early motorist history.

And if any reader knows of an NP lurking in a barn or doing service as a chicken coop, or even has access to Salmons or Tickford memorabilia, the time to come forward is now. Newport Pagnell history need you.

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CAR 97

South Bank show for Citroën's venerable old Avant guards

Eve-Ann Prentice on a gathering of lovingly restored French cars that were once adored equally by Gestapo and Resistance members

Little boy lost — in thought, a small child thinks big as dozens of Citroëns from a bygone age go on show on London's South Bank.

Peter Kutapan, two, couldn't quite handle the big stuff when a collection of Traction Avants went on display as part of the Coin Street Festival last Sunday, so he brought his own toy version along for the ride.

It is 40 years since Citroën caused production of the ground-breaking Traction Avant, a car that has played no small part in history and was beloved in its time by gangsters and generals as well as gendarmes, the Gestapo as well as the French Resistance.

At its launch in 1934, the Traction Avant was the first mass-produced car with unitary body construction, front-wheel drive, fully independent suspension and fully hydraulic brakes. The low-slung lines and lack of running boards set it apart from the rest and the lack of a transmission tunnel because of the front-wheel drive gave the car an uncluttered and spacious interior. The early 1.3-litre engine soon gave way to a 1.9-litre long-stroke four-cylinder unit that rapidly became famous for its durability. Traction Avants that have covered 100,000 miles or more are not at all unusual.

Perhaps best known in this country as the car used by Inspector Maigret, Georges Simenon's famous detective, it

probably did more than any other model to bring the French marque to world attention. When it was first introduced its advanced engineering was hailed as sensational and the car has always had a devoted following among classic enthusiasts. It was the official car of the French Fourth Republic.

For much of its 23-year production span the Traction Avant was among those Citroëns assembled at the company's British plant in Slough, Berkshire, where it was known first as the Super Modern 12 then as power increased as the Light 15 or Big 15. One of the most sought-after versions among enthusiasts is the semi-cabriolet made at Slough of which only four examples are known to survive.

In postwar France the model had a powerful emotional appeal, as well as providing reliable family transport. Some of the models once seized by the Gestapo were commandeered again by the French Resistance in support of the Allied forces after the Normandy landings.

The display of classic Citroëns at the South Bank last weekend, which also included the DS, SM and 2CV, was organised by Classic Restorations. The company, one of the first to specialise in the Traction Avant, restores and services the cars under the railway arches at Waterloo station.



Boys' toys: Peter Kutapan, two, brought his own little example along to the collection of Traction Avants that went on display as part of the Coin Street Festival last Sunday

Ford celebrates two decades since the initial R



Commemorative plates: the sporty Escort Mexico of 1976, left, and the new Puma

It was the year Mao Tse-tung died, Manchester United beat Liverpool 2-1 in the FA Cup, Red Run won the Grand National for the third time, and a pound of cheese cost 44p. Eve-Ann Prentice writes.

It was also the year new R-registration cars appeared on the roads — the last time round — and a date which holds fond memories for the Ford Motor Company. The year with an R in it was 1976, when James Callaghan became Prime Minister, James Hunt was reigning Formula One champion in his McLaren Ford M23, and Ford became market leader in Britain.

The carmaker still domi-

nates the British market and, to mark the 21 years between the two Rs, Ford held a celebration day at its Heritage Centre in Dagenham last week, when an alphabet of cars from the intervening years was displayed, from a 1976 Escort Mexico to a brand new Puma.

Remembering the year when Rocky won an Oscar for best film and *Man About the House* was the height of television panache, Ford marketing director Tom Pallister pointed out that today's customers are far more demanding when it comes to buying a car.

"Our cars have come a long way since 1976," he said at the celebration day. "Driv-

ing a Ford is now a safer, more comfortable and more satisfying experience... you can now get more car features such as power steering, air conditioning, CD players, heated seats and electric windows on even the smallest cars in the range."

Some of the fictional customers who have taken the wheel of Fords over the past 21 years include *The Professionals'* Bodie and Doyle in Capris, *The Sweeney's* John Thaw in a Granada and Jimmy Nail in *Spender*, in a Sierra Cosworth.

One other thing has changed since the last time new cars boasted an R registration — 1976 was one of the hottest summers on record.

CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE USED CAR MARKET

FORECOURT

AS WITH all VWs, the Passat is super-strong, built like a tank, but unlike its smaller Golf and Polo cousins, has an astonishing ability to carry piles of suitcases, people, furniture and rubber plants — especially in its estate form.

Its enormously strong build means that covering distances even up to and way beyond 150,000 miles poses no challenge to the Passat. It is also roomy for occupants, cosy, and robust, reports CAP Black Book.

Whereas the Golf oozes image however, the Passat lacks it entirely, which no doubt contributes to the fact that when new its value depreciates like a falling rock. The Passat can also be costly to service.



The estate version is more highly regarded than the saloon, and this is reflected in the price, with the larger car being more expensive. Provided they come with a full service history, high-mileage cars can make a very shrewd buy, as they wear their miles so lightly.

The GL specification cars are most popular, and while the diesel-engined variants are OK, the best of the bunch is the 1.9-litre diesel. Best buy overall is a 1994 M-reg 2-litre petrol GL Estate, which with 60,000 to 70,000 miles on the clock is likely to cost in the region of £8,000.

Avoid the bottom-of-the-range L specification cars as these are a bit basic, and the GT 16-valve car can be difficult to sell again.

Turbodiesels are often overpriced. When buying, watch out for exhaust smoke, worn shock absorbers, and especially for cars that have been clocked. Since Passats that have done 80,000 miles and more can easily look to have done far fewer.

ROADTEST

Ian Morton finds Proton's two-door a powerful persuader

Definitions are not getting any more definite. Here is a car which another manufacturer might call a two-door or sports saloon. But despite its obvious relationship with the Persona family model, Proton says it is a coupé.

Whatever the semantics there is no argument about the nature of this latest product from Malaysia. Even acknowledging design and engineering from Mitsubishi (which holds 17 per cent of the manufacturing company) the 1.8 Coupé is Proton's most serious bit of motoring kit yet.

It does not look especially distinguished. Neat, perhaps, and a tad purposeful by reason of five-spoke alloy wheels and a rear spoiler, the new Proton stands unremarkable in the parade of today's sleek two-door shapes and sporting stances. Which makes on-the-road reality all the more surprising. The 1.8 Coupé proves well-knit and properly poised under pressure, and delivers a heap of performance for £13,999.

No small sports car would be ashamed to offer 7,500rpm and show 0-60mph in 7.5 seconds. At 120mph, the four gear still has revs to spare. Fifth pushes on to 126mph. More practically, the 133bhp 1.8-litre 16-valve twin-cam feels muscular from around 2,000rpm, and sustains spirited response virtually to the top of the revs.

The engine has a hard tone which becomes intense from 3,400rpm. When the lower gears are being wound up the Coupé could be accused of intrusion. There again, the gearing is such that 70mph needs only 3,100rpm, so cruising is a peaceful business.

The chassis is notably quiet. The suspension, pattery and restless over poor surfaces in town, silently absorbs dips and roughness at speed, and the



Restrained lines are broken only by five-spoke wheels and rear spoiler

tyres show similar discretion. At medium and high speeds it is wind hush that dominates, before the engine shouts through.

Roadholding is convincing enough to contain most swift corners, at least in the dry, and the front tyres wall a timely warning of approaching understeer. When the front end does unstick, it goes gently and the car remains well balanced and smoothly directed. The steering matches the mood perfectly with its easy ratio, moderate weight and satiny feel.

Whatever antics the driver may provoke, the car feels tidy, small and rigid. It is a mature and gratifying product whose approach — together with its restrained styling — must appeal to the sort of drivers Proton see as their target audience, specifically the young with responsibilities and the older with retained expectations, but both with limited finances.

Yet the specification is practical and generous. Furthermore, a six-year/60,000 mile mechanical warranty, three-year/60,000 mile total vehicle cover and three years' RAC membership — the best package in the UK market — are further inducements to support a model that must challenge a few entrenched perceptions.

negotiating to do a map of Ireland and on September 21, I'm launching an upside down map of California," says Sims. The Upside Down Atlas costs £8.99 or can be ordered direct, plus £1 p&p, from Latitude, 34 The Broadway, Dorkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 2NW, tel. 01707 663090.

To win one of our 20 prizes, answer the following question on a postcard with your name and address and send to: Map contest, CAR 97, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN. Winners will be drawn from all correct entries. Closing date August 20. Usual rules apply.

On a conventional map which compass point is at the bottom of the page?

PROTON COUPÉ

Engine: 1.834cc four-cylinder 16-valve twin-cam, 133bhp.

Transmission: five-speed manual.

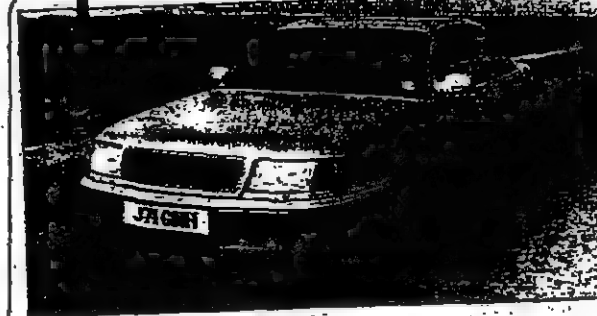
Performance: 0-60mph, 7.5 seconds; 126mph max.

Economy: 23.8mpg urban, 41.8mpg extra-urban, 32.7mpg combined.

Equipment: power steering, driver's airbag, ABS, electric front windows and mirrors, electronic immobiliser, alloy wheels, metallic paint.

Price: £13,999 (available September).

USED CAR BRIEF



NISSAN 1800 The trust generation Audi 100 was launched in 1981, and in 1984 the car seamlessly transitioned into the new identical but differently badged A8. Available as a four-door saloon and a huge estate, the engine range includes the four cylinder 2.0-litre petrol, the cylinder 2.2 and 2.3-litre petrol, 2.5-litre five-cylinder turbo diesel and 2.8 and 2.9-litre V6 petrol.

GOOD NEWS Spare parts don't come cheap on cars with changes, those who have changed bearings, leaks from the power steering system, as well as smoky engines from cars that have covered high mileages, plus excessive tappet noise, can all indicate a car that has worked hard.

LOOK FOR Towing power. For anyone with a caravan, boat or trailer who covers big motorway distances, the 2.5-litre turbo-diesel is one of the best available, a smooth engine especially effective when restrained to a six-speed gearbox. The turbo-diesel is even more useful in four-wheel-drive quattro guise.

SAFETY Rated 30 per cent safer than smaller cars by the Department of Transport, and on a 50t Audi car like the Rover 800 and the 1995c BMW 5-series, Big and chunky, offering lots of peace of mind.

FINES (Prices supplied by Glassmedia 01932 823822) clutch assembly £153, rear axle £153, full exhaust £153, catalytic converter £485 (exchanged), rear bumper £65, front brakepads £25, alternator £187 (exchanged), starter motor £152 (exchanged), motor £227 (exchanged).

FINES £7,250 for a 1991 H-reg 2.0E saloon, £8,400 for a 1993 J-reg 2.3E saloon, £11,000 for a 1992 H-reg 2.6E saloon, £12,000 for a 1993 K-reg 2.5 TD saloon, £13,000 for a 1993 L-reg 2.0E estate, £16,750 for a 1994 K-reg 2.5 TD SE estate and £19,000 for a 1993 K-reg 54 turbo 2.2 saloon.

OVERALL Audi's big car had long fought a losing battle against the BMW 5-series but the new generation Audi 100 started to change that. Not cheap to buy or to care for, the 100 offers different backing to avoid the hard costly bills, and go for the turbo-diesel for economy as well as performance.

WIN AN UPSIDE DOWN ATLAS

FORGET in-car navigation, the satellite-guided wonder that tells you how to find your way via a dashboard screen. There is a far simpler answer. Alan Copps writes.

With a special thought for our friends in the North, Ashley Sims has launched the Upside Down Map Company to produce an atlas with one set of conventional maps, with north at the top of the page, and another set reversed to help drivers travelling from north to south.

The atlas is on its third print run and more than 20,000 have been sold. By answering our simple question below,

readers of CAR 97 can win one of 20 copies courtesy of the Upside Down Map Company. "Anyone travelling around the UK will know that life is simple when you are driving south to north using a conventional map, but a great deal more tricky when travelling in the other direction," says Sims, 25, from Derbyshire.

"If you turn the map upside down the place names are unreadable and if you read the map backwards in the direction you are driving, right hand turns and places are on the left and vice versa."

The A4-size atlas gives a range of about 100 miles per



A conventional map, left, and north-friendly alternative



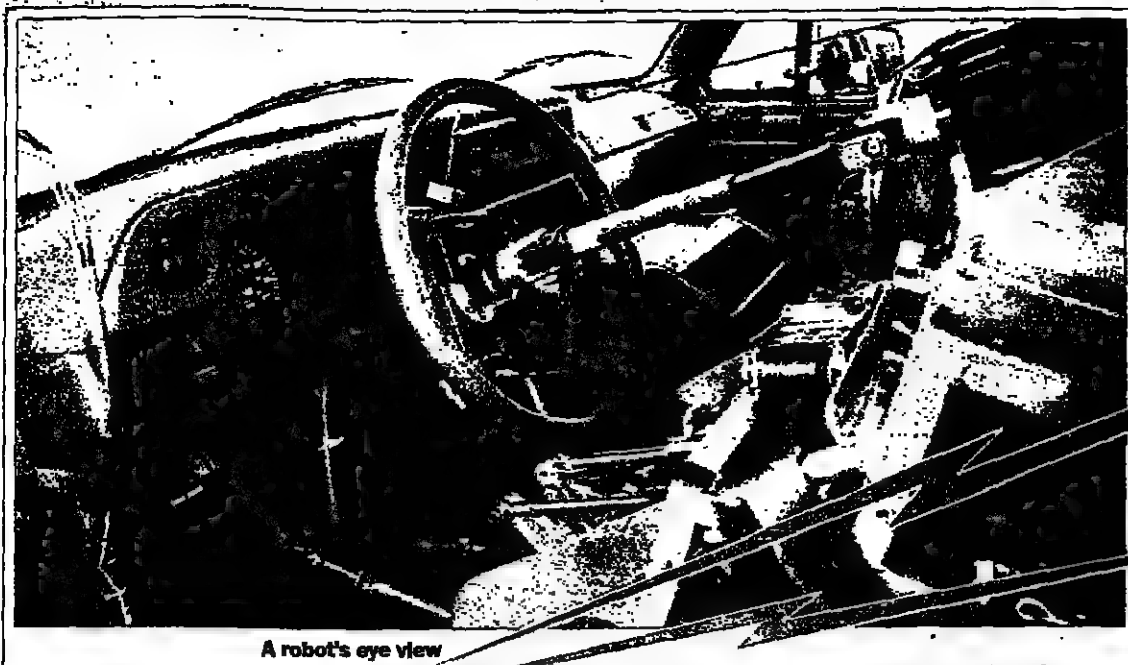
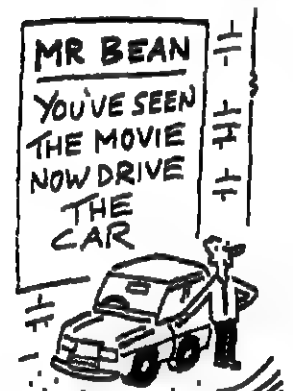
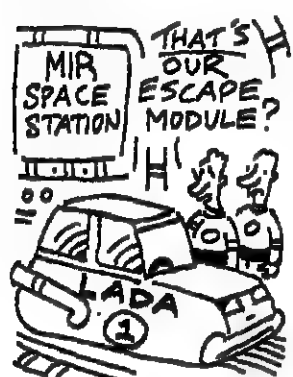
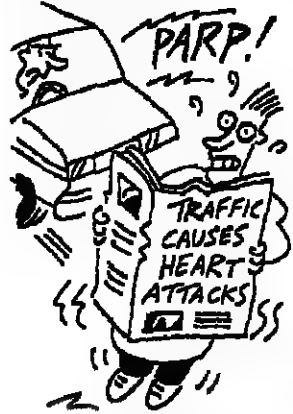
A conventional map, left, and north-friendly alternative

page. "I had the idea years ago but did nothing about it. Then my father, John Sims, registered it and tried to interest map producers. They all dismissed it as a gimmick."

"Then he said 'If you think you can do better, you do it.' I tried to get sponsorship from oil companies but that failed. So he gave me £8,000 and I used it to get samples printed. I took it to W. H. Smith and they loved it, then John Menzies took it, then BP and Texaco wanted it. Now I'm

Advertisement for Lancia cars, featuring a large image of a Lancia car and text describing its features and availability.

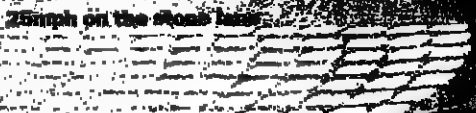
CAR...TOONS



A robot's eye view



Relay mast sends commands to onboard computer



Jump on the steep bank

THE TIRELESS TEST DRIVER



Which instructs robot on the front seat to steer, change gear, accelerate and brake

Vehicle commands are sent from the control tower

To help monitor the car, a rear antenna emits power bursts to a transponder in the track which sends a signal back to the car's computer. The location is sent back to control tower

A guide wire in the road helps steer the car by sending signals to sensors on the front of the car

Guide wires

Wrecker robots are an auto's mate

Chrysler's computerised drivers are discovering what its new cars can stand, reports Kevin Eason

They never complain about the long hours nor wings that every bump and pothole sends a quiver down their spines like a tuning fork.

These are the drivers developing the cars of the future for Chrysler — a small army of robots driving on an electronically controlled circuit more like a Scalextric track than a motorway.

America's third-biggest car-maker is radically shortening development times by handing over the most arduous testing to robot drivers which pound round a circuit so demanding that 2,500 miles is the equivalent of 100,000 on normal roads.

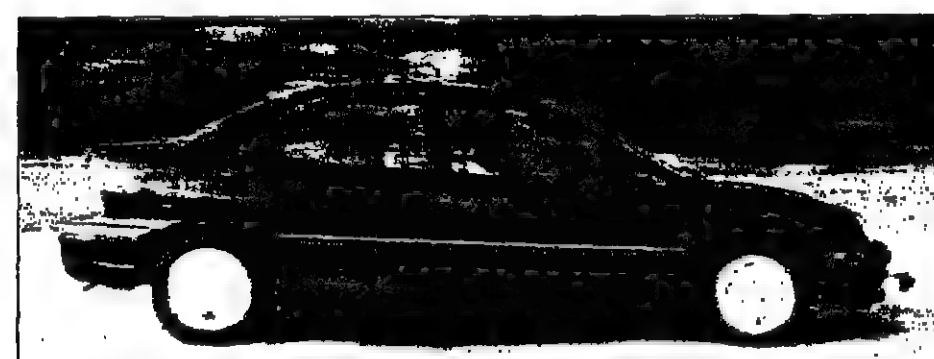
The 1.3-mile circuit cost \$12 million to build and is the only one like it in the world, though it is undoubtedly the forerunner for carmakers desperately seeking easier and quicker ways to shake out faults from upcoming models.

Designing and making a

car is only the first step; it is in the hundreds of thousands of miles of development driving that components are tested, sometimes to destruction. Rattles, squeaks, poor fitting parts not up to the job are all sought out in that vital period which can take years and require test teams journeying halfway around the world. They drive through deserts and over Arctic wastes — in the cause of making sure the car that reaches the showrooms can tootle to the shops without a blip.

At best, European carmakers need about two years to complete the task, but the race is on to equal or beat the 18 months claimed by some Japanese manufacturers between the car leaving the drawing board and being parked on the drive.

Chrysler's robotised test circuit will help, by allowing engineers to put cars through hour after hour of rigorous examination without the need



Robots test cars harder and longer than humans, but they don't know when to stop

for finding test drivers willing to put their bodies through a pounding that would make even Michael Schumacher wince.

The circuit track at Chrysler's proving ground in Chelsea, Michigan, is divided into two lanes: a smooth, asphalt track and a harsh cobblestone surface, intermittently dotted with severe potholes and simulated rail tracks.

Sue Cieshke, Chrysler's general manager of scientific laboratories and proving grounds, says: "Our drivers can last only four hours a day on these roads. Imagine hitting a head-tossing pothole

every five feet for hours on end. Needless to say, we don't have a lot of test drivers who relish that job."

She adds: "But a robot can be programmed to take that kind of punishment all day long, through the night and in all kinds of weather. It will run the same course over and over. It won't be tempted to lift off the accelerator or swerve to avoid a particularly nasty pothole."

"We think we can take testing time down from six weeks to less than two weeks and that's a huge advantage in

our ever-shrinking product cycle time. We can also improve the consistency of our tests, reduce the time our drivers are exposed to harsh conditions and increase the time they are available to drive on less severe roads."

The test circuit has two guide wires embedded in the track surface. Two sensors mounted in the front of the test car pick up frequencies from the guide wires and relay their messages to a computer in the driver's seat; the closer the coil gets to the guide wire, the higher the voltage; so when the voltage in, say, the right-hand side sensor is too strong,

the computer knows it is drifting off course and corrects the steering.

The computer corrects course and speed, instructing mechanical arms and feet as it travels at speeds up to 45mph while as many as nine vehicles on the circuit at one time are monitored from a traffic control tower — manned by real people who view the action through a system of cameras around the circuit.

Models such as the Neon and Jeep Cherokee were tested this way, required to drive mile after monotonous mile as engineers waited to see if each component would pass its severest examination. Every component has to be tested through at least 100,000 miles, but it can take six weeks or more for human test drivers to get through mileages that high. Now body and chassis engineers can get on with other work while the robots bump and grind their way to destruction.

The robots have only one failing so far, which is that they cannot pick up on faults that motorists would spot in an instant. The robots will drive on whether something breaks or not, even if the

passenger cabin fills with smoke from an electrical short or the car starts shaking itself to bits. Chrysler is developing a new set of sensors with a "human touch" that will spot those kind of faults immediately and alert engineers in the control tower.

The Chrysler circuit is also giving engineers a fast learning curve on the development of so-called automated highways, roads on which cars will be guided in electronic convoy without the need for motorists to touch the controls.

The world's first automated highway went into experimental service in California last month aimed at being used by ordinary motorists by the year 2002. But Chrysler's team believes there are too many glitches for the system to work successfully for some time yet, though each mile its robots cover adds to the sum of knowledge on technology that is destined to become a feature of everyday motoring in the next century.

Maybe then, you could pack the kids into the Neon and off to school with nanny driving... a robot nanny that is guided all the way to the gates by wire.

Roll on colour, and say goodbye tired black

Grab your shades — Michelin man's gone psychedelic, reports Vaughan Freeman

For the first 100 years of the car, manufacturers have offered motorists little or no choice when it came to the colour of their tyres. The alternatives traditionally limited only to a narrow range of black.

All that is changing now with the launch of a gaudy range of tyres from Michelin featuring fire-engine red, enviro-friendly green and sunburst yellow.

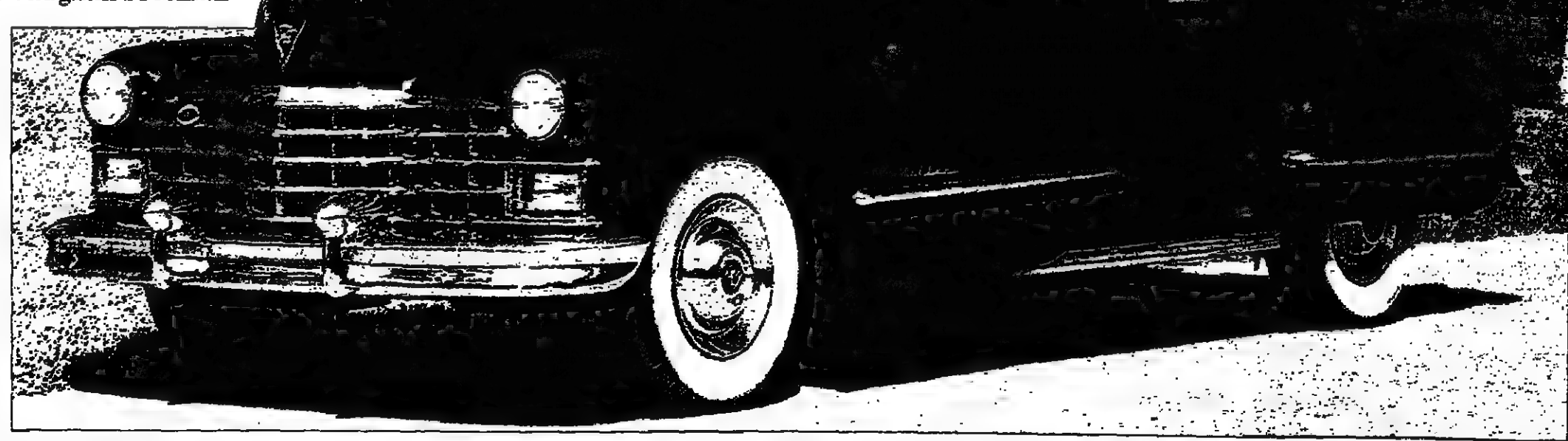
Michelin believes younger drivers, bored with the tedious black tyres on the corners of their metallic or pearlescent multi-hued cars, are itching to switch to tyres that, like the perfectly matched handbag, will harmonise with their car's colour.

It is not the first time the automotive industry has tried to jazz up the humble tyre. Once, the whitewall was the ultimate in tyre chic, a rubber fashion statement first seen on finned and chromed American cars of the 1950s and 1960s and which was then adopted by wannabe glamour cars from Britain.

Today the whitewall tyre is long since dead, and seen only in demure guise on Rolls-Royces. Michelin believes its coloured tyres, likely to be seen in Britain next year and being trialled in limited numbers now in France, Germany and Italy, will prove to be the "in" thing for the fashion-conscious motorist.

Michelin's Corallo range features highly visible colours in the sidewall of the tyre, as well as the tread, and because the colour is not a dye but formed in the rubber of the tyre, the colour never wears out. Indeed, the tyre's wear only freshens the colour.

Michelin spokesman Alan Abercrombie says: "The tyres are aimed at drivers who might buy cars with



colour-coordinated bumpers, and younger drivers who would want their tyres to harmonise or contrast with the colour they have chosen for their car.

"The tyres would also be useful for motor manufacturers who want to make a special-edition car and might be looking to colour-coordinate the wheels with the car's body colour. By offering the Corallo range in Rio Yellow, Ema Red and Nordik Green, we hope most tastes will be catered for."

The tyres come in only two sizes to fit small and medium cars, and are aimed at motorists likely to buy "fun" cars like the Ford Ka, Peugeot 106 or Renault Clio, and who are also likely to be younger than drivers of larger family saloons and estates.

Coloured tyres have become possible only in the past four or five years with the introduction of

silica in the construction of tyres. In the past, tyres have traditionally used carbon black with the rubber. Carbon black, which gives tyres their distinctive and tedious shade, protects the tyre rubber from ultra violet light which hardens rubber and makes it brittle.

The use in tyre construction of silica, which also protects the tyre rubber from ageing, means that tyres can be made in any colour without any compromise in safety or performance, because silica comes in a neutral pigment.

While the coloured tyres will cost slightly more than their dreary all-black counterparts, the hope is that harlequin hues on a car's four corners will have the welcome side-effect of increasing a driver's awareness of his or her tyres and so increase safety. Tyres are notoriously overlooked, and few drivers regularly check them

for pressures or wear, even though they are one of the most vital components on a vehicle.

Abercrombie says: "It seems strange that motorists will spend hundreds of pounds on a hi-fi system for their car, yet, because tyres are a distress purchase, resent spending money on tyres. A £30 petrol fill-up at the garage will take most cars 300 or 400 miles, yet a £30 tyre will take a car 30,000 miles."

Every year millions of cars fail their MOT because of faulty tyres, and in August and September alone it is estimated some 600,000 cars will have to retake the test because of faults with their tyres.

Tyres with worn tread, damage, nicks and bulges are one of the main causes of motorists facing the disappointment of a failed

MOT says the National Tyre Distributors Association.

NTDA president Tony Cooke says: "We know that one in ten of cars will fail to meet the MOT's legal requirements for tyres."

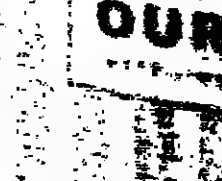
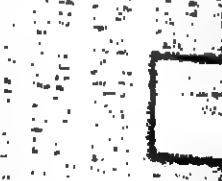
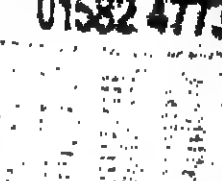
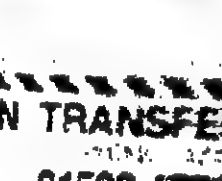
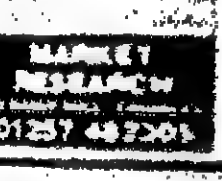
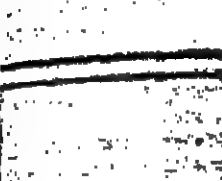
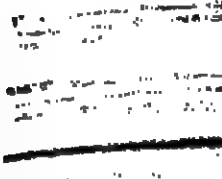
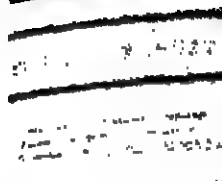
The most common causes of tyre failure are insufficient tread depth — the law requires a minimum of 1.6mm — poor puncture repairs, irregular tread wear, sidewall splits, cuts and bulges.

Now the NTDA's 2,500 centres are offering free tyre inspections aimed at spotting tyre problems before motorists enter their cars for an MOT. Cooke says: "The great pity is that literally millions of pounds are being wasted by motorists paying re-test fees and travelling to new appointments when a free, five-minute tyre inspection would have identified both the problem and the most appropriate solution."



Whitewalls were glam in the 1950s, but eventually the fad died a death.

Will colour make drivers take more notice of their rubber? One in ten cars now fails to meet the MOT requirements for tyre safety



Vehicle commands
are sent from the
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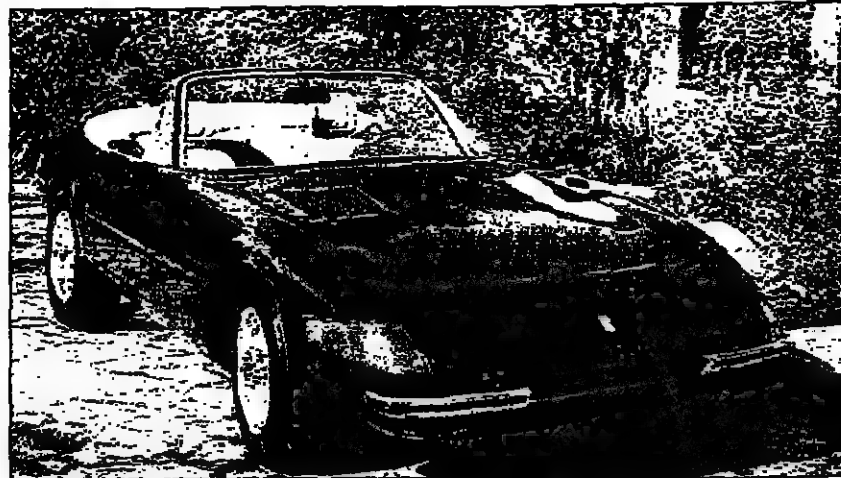
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There are three Ferrari Daytona Spydres. One is the best Christie's has seen

Mel Blanc's rare cars are for sale, says Alan Coops

for hot rods and custom cars, Noel Blanc, who has continued the family business after his father's death, is selling some of the cars. They are among the stars of Christie's auction at the legendary Pebble Beach gathering in California next weekend. The sale coincides with America's biggest historic car meeting and with what is arguably the most respectable concours d'elegance in the world. It includes at least three vehicles expected to raise more than a million dollars.

"Noel Blanc has turned his attention to hot rods and admits these cars no longer get the attention and driving they deserve. Because he's a perfectionist, he's

Mel Blanc's rare cars are for sale, says Alan Copps

decided to sell them now while they are still in pristine condition," says Miles Morris of Christie's International cars department. "For example, the condition of the best of three Ferrari Daytonas, a black 1973 365 GTS/4 is quite unbelievable. It's the best Christie's has ever seen. It's almost certainly better than when Enzo Ferrari sold the car."

question has done just 3,421 miles from new and the catalogue recounts how it caught Noel Blanc's eye in Beverly Hills one day. He followed it home, asked the owner to name his price and it changed hands on the spot. Its estimate now is \$375,000 (\$234,000) to \$475,000 (\$300,000).

Another gem from the Blanc collection is a 1957 Ford Thunderbird "F" — the supercharged version of one of the most famous American sports cars. The specification is a reminder of just how long some of the "new" features now being fitted to cars have been around in the States. The factory-fitted options include power seats, electric windows and a radio that

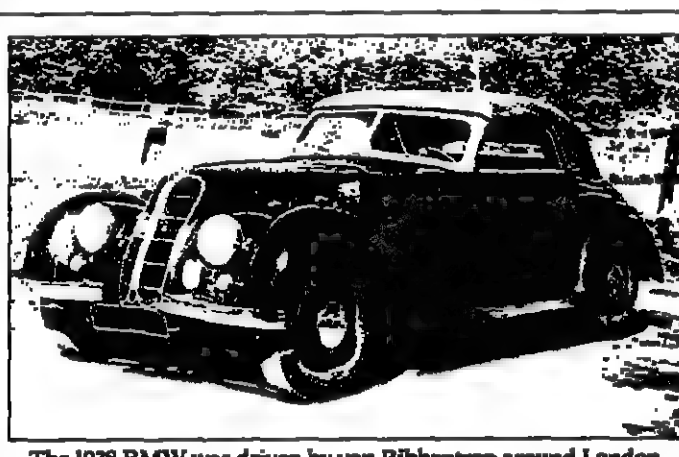
automatically increases its volume in proportion to engine speed. Its estimate is \$70,000 to \$90,000 (£43,000 to £56,000).

The sale also includes one of the largest and rarest cars on the road anywhere. A Bucciali TAV 12 dating from 1932, one of only three known survivors of a marque that rivalled Bugatti, Hispano Suiza, Isotta Fraschini and other grand exotica of the inter-war years, is described as "one of the most beautiful cars in the world." It has a 6.5-litre car engine. Nearly 200 long and 61.5 wide, this front-wheel drive, 712-engined leviathan with its huge 24-inch wheels and low-slung Saatchi&Satchi coachwork is one of the most imposing cars ever produced.

Together with one of the most original Jaguar D-Types ever offered for sale, the Ferrari Mille Miglia Spyder in which Mike Hawthorn won the 1953 *Daily Mail* Trophy race, the 1953 *Daily Mail* Rolls-Royce once belonged to Frank Sinatra and a host of other rarities, the cars make up an auction that could raise up to \$12 million.



Famous cartoon voice Mel Blanc was a car-collecting fanatic



The 1939 BMW was driven by von Ribbentrop around London

A 1938 BMW with a small part in history returns home for a sale of classic cars at the Nurburgring circuit in Germany today.

The blue 327 sports tourer was delivered new to Joachim von Ribbentrop, Hitler's ambassador in London. It was seen around town on his visits to the Foreign Office until he returned to become Germany's wartime Foreign Secretary.

Ribbentrop was hanged at Nuremberg in 1946. His car was

passed through three postwar owners and carries a broad £28,000-£41,000 estimate at a Brooks auction.

The sale coincides with the silver jubilee of the Oldtimer Grand Prix at the Nürburgring, home of the German Grand Prix from 1927 to 1969.

Another prewar classic set for a top price is a striking 1930 red Mercedes, a 7.1-litre supercharged SS sports tourist estimated between £450,000-£500,000.

M. Scott with anecdotal evidence suggesting he may have been Major George Scott, a pilot of the ill-fated airstrip *R101*, which crashed in 1930.

A 1953 3.4-litre restored Jaguar C-type which had a trouble-free run in the Mille Miglia retrospective runs in 1995 and 1996 is a little more expensive at £333,000.

The auction also features famous Formula One racers, including the James Hunt/Jacky Ickx 1975 63-litre Healeigh Cosworth at about £21,000.

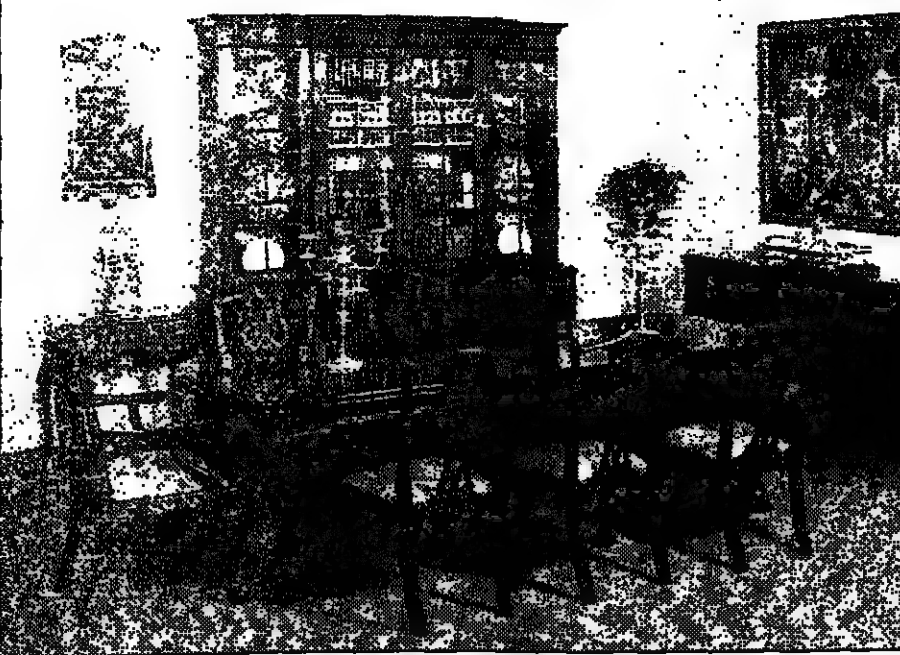
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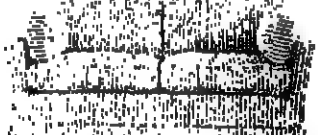
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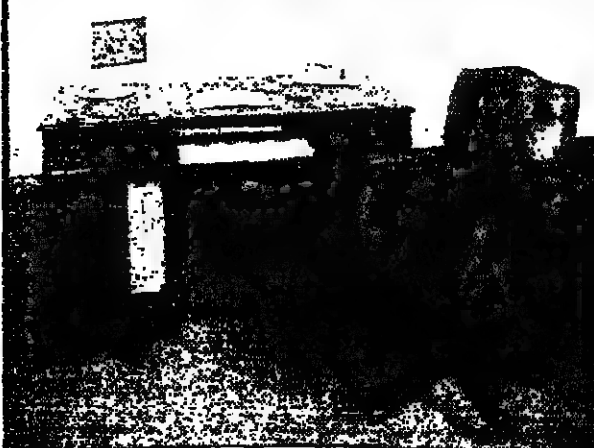
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Almost as good as a birthday gun

The eighth wonder of the world
is nothing compared to the
thrill of a hunt for a small boy

JAMES MCMANUS



Nicholas, four, and Elizabeth, six, with their hero, Elliot

Take a four-year-old boy, place him on a spray-drenched outcrop facing Victoria Falls, point out the majesty of the mile-wide waterfall thundering into a gorge only feet away from his small, amazed face, direct his wondering eyes to the rainbows bursting through the clouds of mist rising high into the blue African sky and then say: "Well, what do you think of that?"

After a pause during which the boy solemnly scans the eighth wonder of the world, the response is spoken with conviction: "Dad, can I have a real gun for my birthday?" As ever with children, there is a line of logic here.

Early that morning we had stumbled from our beds at a small lodge in the bush a few miles from the falls to be driven by a guide called Elliot across the railway line that Rhodes once dreamt would link Capetown to Cairo.

Once across the rail, the bush, thickened and greened by an extended rainy season, closed around us like fog. Elliot had a big .375 rifle and, as he loaded copper-jacketed rounds into the breach, it was clear that nothing the children would see that day would match the sight of our hunter and his very real gun.

As the sunlight began to splinter through the trees we tracked the spoor of elephant, hippo and buffalo in the grey powdery earth of small paths and clearings. The deep round prints of the elephant and the smaller, cloven hoof-marks of the buffalo were fresh. But it was the dung of both animals, warm and soft to the touch, that made you handle these things — the children, of course, loved doing so, that told us how close we were to big game. The hippo, which

will travel miles from their river in search of food at night, had long returned to the Zambezi. But the elephant and buffalo were close enough to remind us, as we peered hopefully into the bush, that no one had had breakfast.

Elliot pointed to a livid scar running from his thigh to calf and said that buffalo had killed more professional hunters in Africa than any other animal. Six months previously he had almost joined the list after a surprise charge in this very area.

Breakfast suddenly seemed of overriding importance. There were no arguments as we returned to the Land Rover and bumped our way back to a hilltop lodge, whose main single-storey building opened onto wide verandas, giving a 360-degree view over miles of the Zambezi national park.

The style was turn-of-the-century colonial, with corrugated iron roofs, ceiling fans, iron bedsteads and even those

old-fashioned baths with ball and claw feet in the two honeymoon suites. This is Sekuti's Drift, named after a chief who ruled over hundreds of square miles north and south of the Zambezi river in the early years of the century.

Although the tsetse fly, which was the chief's principal ally against the white pioneer columns, has long gone, the malarial mosquito remains, and so we obediently took our daily Paludrine at breakfast. This was a bore and one which persisted three weeks after the end of our holiday, but it was a small price to pay for the pleasure of a family safari.

Sekuti takes a maximum of 20 guests in ten rooms. The food, which is a huge improvement on the usual safari camp heart-attack fry-up, is served at a long communal dining table. There is a large open fireplace, a teak-topped long

bar and a library which, among the usual Africana, includes such rarities as a first edition of the collected short stories of William Sansom.

What makes this lodge different from many others in Zimbabwe is that it provides the experience of a remote bush camp only 20 minutes' drive from the fast-growing resort of Victoria Falls. So you can, as we did, hear the roar of a lion signalling his desire for a mate only yards from your bedroom window, you can follow Elliot into the virgin bush at dawn, and you can relive the colonial dream on the veranda at night (too much whisky under too many stars), all within reach of the gaudy delights of the falls.

Sadly, what they say about the falls is true. Collusion between a cash-strapped government and a greedy tourist industry has put too many sundowner cruises on the broad stretch of the Zambezi above the falls and too many helicopters and microlite aircraft into the airspace over the resort, which is now crowded with too many hotels.

But at the turn of the century, exactly 40 years after David Livingstone reported the existence of the falls to the outside world, the local press was making very much the same complaints. Then, as now, consolation can be found in the luxury of the Victoria Falls Hotel, a magnificent pile whose terrace looks out over the wildly improbable railway bridge arching over the Zambezi gorge linking Zimbabwe with Zambia. As for the falls, the largest single curtain of falling water in the world retains its age-old powers of astonishment — unless you happen to be a four-year-old boy.

JAMES MCMANUS



Victoria Falls, between Zimbabwe and Zambia, is a mile wide and the largest single sheet of water in the world

A journey along the Nile is a passage through antiquity, an incomparable river voyage that brings to life the great monuments of the Pharaohs, the divine kings of thirty dynasties who ruled Egypt.

Travelling with us will be our guest speaker who will add much to our understanding of all we see. Ashore we will be joined at the sites by knowledgeable local guides. There will be a number of informative after dinner talks recapping the days explorations.

Exploration by river is, without doubt, the most comfortable and relaxing way to see Egypt and particularly when one is fortunate enough to travel on one of the smaller vessels of the first class Thomas Cook Egypt fleet. With a party size of forty to fifty travellers the atmosphere on board is more akin to a private yacht.

However, the best feature of such a small party is the speed and ease at which we can move around the sites, embark and disembark. On larger vessels so much time can be wasted whilst one or two hundred passengers queue to land, join a coach, etc.

This 600 mile journey is unusual in that it will take you all the way from Cairo to the Nubian city of Aswan. Most river vessels cruise between Luxor and Aswan taking 4 to 7 days.

In addition to our eleven nights on the river we will have a total of four days in Cairo. Egypt's capital for the past thousand years. From here will view the wonders of Giza, Saqqara and Memphis and visit the Cairo Museum and the old city.



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Day 5 Cairo. Morning at leisure. Afternoon embarkation on Royal Serenade. Sail at dusk to El Wasta. Moor overnight.

Day 6 On the Nile. Day 7 Bent Hassan. This morning explore the river cliff tombs of the Beni Hassan nobles, dating back to 2000 BC.

Afternoon on the river cruising to Tel El Amarna. Day 8 Tel El Amarna & Assiout. In the morning we will ride in tractor-wagons for the short journey to the archaeological site of Tel El Amarna and the ruins of the palace of Queen Neferiti.

Day 9 On the Nile. Cruising the Nile to Ballana. Day 10 Abydos & Gena.

Drive through the fertile Nile Valley to Abydos, the most sacred site in Egypt to visit the Temples of Seti I and his son, Ramesses II.

Day 11 Denderah & Luxor. In the

morning drive to the Temple of Hathor at Denderah. Sail on to Luxor. Afternoon visit to the magnificent temples of Karnak and Luxor. Moor overnight in Luxor. Day 12 Luxor. An early start this morning, crossing the Nile and driving through the desert to the Necropolis of ancient Thebes. See the tombs of the Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings, the mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut, the Valley of the Queens and the Colossi of Memnon. Afternoon sailing to Edfu.

Day 13 Edfu, Kom Ombo & Aswan. Drive by horse and carriage to the Temple of Horus. Later cruise to Kom Ombo and visit the striking Ptolemaic Temple overlooking the Nile. Sail to Aswan and moor overnight.

Day 14 Aswan. Visit the Aswan High Dam and continue to the reconstructed Temple of Philae. In the afternoon sail across the Nile by felucca to Kitchener Island.

Day 15 Abu Simbel. Early morning flight to Abu Simbel to see the reconstructed rock-hewn temple of Ramesses. Return to Aswan by air. Remainder of day at leisure.

Day 16 Aswan to London (Heathrow). Morning departure for London with Egyptian, arriving in the afternoon.

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■ Air Zimbabwe (0171-491 0009) has four flights weekly to Harare with published fares from £1,066, flying from Gatwick. KLM (0990 750900) has fares from £556 via Amsterdam.

■ Africa Connection (01244 400994) can arrange itineraries to include the Victoria Falls Hotel, from £115 per person for B&B, and Sekuti's Drift, from £138, full board.

■ The cheapest time to buy a package holiday is

FACT FILE

between January and March. Africa Connection offers seven nights B&B at the Victoria Falls Hotel, international and internal flights and transfers from £1,580 per person. Seven nights at Sekuti's Drift costs from £1,695.

■ Vaccinations against typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A, and malaria pills are all necessary.

Innoculations for rabies, diphtheria, hepatitis B and meningitis may be required, depending on areas visited.

■ For further information: Zimbabwe Tourist Office (0171-240 6169).

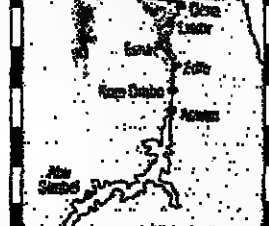
■ The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends *Survivor's Song*, by Mark and Delia Owens (HarcourtCollins, £8.99); *David Livingstone & The Victorian Encounter with Africa* (National Portrait Gallery, £22).

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London (Heathrow) to Cairo with Egyptian. Drive to the luxurious Hotel Semiramis Inter-Continental for a 4 night stay.

Day 2 Cairo. Drive to Giza, where the pyramids of Chephren and Cheops rise from the desert alongside the Great Sphinx.

Day 3 Cairo. Morning visit to the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities where the Pharaohs' reign of 3000 years is brought to life. Later drive to Saqqara to see the step pyramid of King Zoser and on to Memphis to see the sphinx and statue of Ramesses II.



Drive through the fertile Nile Valley to Abydos, the most sacred site in Egypt to visit the Temples of Seti I and his son, Ramesses II.

Day 11 Denderah & Luxor. In the

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Cities of the East: A Korean war soldier goes back to Seoul; and exploring the back streets of Shanghai

For you the war is over



No country in the world can have changed more dramatically in the past 40 years than South Korea. When I spent the last nine months of my National Service there in 1953-54, it was in a state of ruin following the recently ended Korean War.

That savage conflict had been preceded by 45 years of annexation and exploitation by the Japanese, ended only by Japan's defeat in the Second World War.

To return was an extraordinary experience. I remembered Seoul, the capital, as a virtually destroyed city where most products on sale seemed to be made out of steel shrapnel.

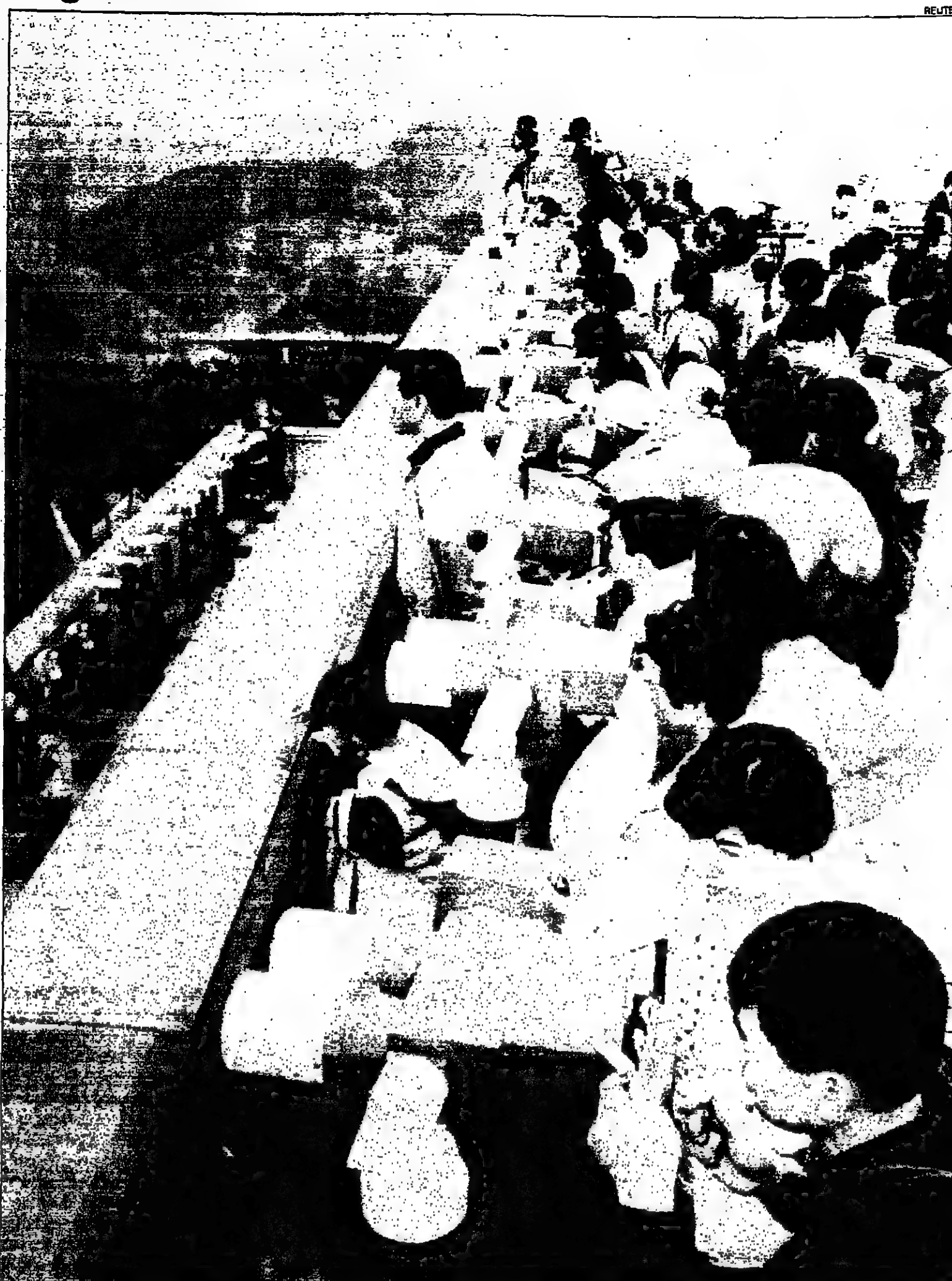
Seoul's population is now about ten million, almost a quarter of the entire nation. The city, through which the mighty River Han flows, bristles with tower blocks and pulsates with energy.

Outside, the hills and mountains have trees again. Cattle-drawn ploughs have all but vanished from the paddy fields, replaced by machines. Korea's gross national product is now eleventh in the world. It was a poignant moment when I found my way back to the site of my old artillery regiment. A friend from those days recalled that it lay between the River Injin and a hill called Kamsok-san. Brigadier Colin Parr, defence attaché at the British embassy in Seoul, helped me pinpoint it on his wall map, not far from the town of Choksong. There I stood next day. Hard to believe, I thought, that here I used a typewriter in the regimental office, dug monsoon ditches, slept in a tent through the bitter Korean winter and "scrambled" on exercises up near the 38th parallel and the border with North Korea. What was once our tented camp, with a minefield to the left, is now fields of ginger.

Cold War confrontations continue as nowhere else in the world, with roughly 600,000 North Korean troops facing about 400,000 South Korean and American troops across the demarcation line. Seoul is not far from the border and the area to the north bristles with tank traps and mines.

Uniquely, however, the focal point of both confrontation and peace-seeking efforts, Panmunjom, in the so-called demilitarised zone, has been turned into a tourist attraction complete with American military briefing and a souvenir shop selling everything from jewellery to chocolate.

There can be few experiences more strange than to stand in the conference room that straddles the demarcation line and listen to a US military briefing, as a couple of North Korean soldiers peer through the windows from their side of the line. Not much less bizarre was the distant spectacle across the border of what must be the largest flag in the world.



South Koreans look out across the demilitarised zone at Panmunjom which has been turned into a tourist attraction complete with souvenir shops

KOREA FACT FILE

■ The author travelled with the Korea National Tourism Organisation (0177-409 2100).
■ Getting there: KLM (0990-750 9000) has direct flights to Seoul from Amsterdam. Fares, including connecting flights from the UK, start at £550.
■ Cities are well connected by air, bus and train. Return fares to Kyongju from Seoul are £40 by train or plane.
■ Tour operators include: Jasin Tours (01628 531121); Far East Gateways (0161-945 4321); Silk Steps (0117-940 2800).

■ When to go: April-June or October-November. July and August tend to be wet and humid. Winter is fine but cold.
■ Visas: Not needed by British subjects staying less than 90 days.
■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: Korea, by Robert Storey and Geoff Crowther (Lonely Planet, £8.95); Culture Shock - Korea, by Sonja Vegdahl Hur and Ben Seungwha Hur (Kuperard, £7.95); Flavour of Korea, by Mark and Tim Millon (André Deutsch, £9.95).

31 metres long, on the tallest pole erected in response to a huge South Korean flag.

My sampling of Korea's cultural and scenic attractions was compressed into six days that included lengthy drives totalling some 20 hours through handsome, often mountainous scenery and less appealing townscapes.

The highlight by a wide margin was the southern town of Kyongju, capital first of the Shilla kingdom which ran

from 57 BC to AD 668 and then of the whole peninsula to AD 935, a period which saw the finest flowering of Buddhist culture in the peninsula.

Often described as an open-air museum, Kyongju and its environs are dotted with temples, pagodas, Buddhist statuary and tombs in the form of giant, grass-covered mounds. Treasures excavated from several of these mounds are displayed in Kyongju's own National Museum, one of the most beautiful collections of vessels and ornaments I have ever seen.

In a magnificent mountain landscape about 20 minutes' drive away are two of the greatest glories of Buddhist art - Pulguksa Temple and the Buddha of the Sokkuram

Grono. The many adjacent buildings of Pulguksa, set on the hillside among ancient fir trees, form an impressively harmonious whole, while the carving and painting of the eaves and interiors is remarkable, given that the complex was reconstructed in the 1970s.

About a quarter of Korea's population is still Buddhist and worshippers were kneeling and drums were quietly beating in most of the temples I visited. The vast, granite 8th-century Buddha that towers behind protective glass is a great work of art by any standards. Thanks to poor weather and an early start, there were not too many people at this particular spot. But South Korea is a densely inhabited country, and one

that puts a high premium on education. Places of historic interest are liable to be thronged with groups of boisterous schoolchildren. This was true of the 126-acre Folk Village not far from Seoul, in which buildings from Korea's past are recreated.

It was sadly also true of Soraksan National Park in the northeast which, with its mountains and waterfalls, is said to be the most beautiful of the country's many such areas. My guidebook's sardonic warning: "Do not expect a wilderness experience" proved amply justified. Climbing for 20 minutes to near the top of the Piryong Waterfall in a lengthy column was just tolerable. Fighting one's way down steep steps past a human wave of ascending youths, each of whose motto seemed to be "me first", was actively unpleasant. Korea's fine beaches, by contrast, seemed eerily empty.

There is much that is beautiful in Korea. A lot of the landscape is magnificent, the Buddhist legacy is rich and wonderful, the food can be delicious and the people are open and friendly on a one-to-one basis. But by European standards there are an awful lot of them around and it takes time to adjust.

ROGER BERTHOUD

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 23

PRUNT (c) A piece of ornamental glass, frequently in the form of a blackberry, attached or laid onto a body of glass, as, for example, a vase. *Academy*, 1907: "The remarkable series of vessels from Anglo-Saxon graves of which the prunted vessels appear to be the earliest."

QUISQUILLIOUS (c) Of the nature of rubbish or refuse. "Besides garden insects and worms, the jays' diet is sufficiently quizzicalous." *Bentham*, 1802-12: "The science is overloaded by the quizzicalous matter they rake together."

QUILLON (a) One of other. "The two arms forming the

crossguard of a sword. Mainly in heraldic use. R. F. Burton, *The Book of the Sword*, 1884: "The quillon may be either straight, that is at right angles, or curved." R. S. Ferguson, *Charters of Carlisle*: "His sword, which has plain straight quillons, hangs at his side."

QUIPU (c) A device of the ancient Peruvians and others for recording events, keeping accounts, sending messages, etc. It consisted of cords and threads of various colours, knotted in various ways. 1704: "They have their quipes which is a sort of strings of different bigness, in which they make knots of several colours by which they remember, when they go to confession, these quipes serve to remember their sins."

Watch the silent tea ceremony

You have to admire a city that builds its first new landmark in bright pink. You either love or hate the Oriental Pearl television tower on the east bank of the Huangpu River. All the Shanghaiese I asked loved it and it is definitely going to be one of the most recognisable landmarks of Asia.

It faces the older landmark, the Bund. Stand on that one of former foreign banks, trading houses, consulates and custom offices, and you can watch Hong Kong-style mirrored office buildings being hurled up to create Lujiazui, the newly designated financial area. The guidebooks are apologetic, acknowledging that the city is changing so fast that by the time the traveller arrives the information is already wrong: the building has gone, the restaurant has shut and the action has moved elsewhere.

The pleasure of Shanghai at present is to pick your way between the coming styles and those left by history. The former Astor House Hotel, for example, has high ceilings and polished wooden floors. Mingling in the lobby are backpacking tourists and young Shanghaiese wearing red waiscoats with numbers on their backs - they are stock traders. And the stock exchange of Shanghai is at present located under gleaming old chandeliers in the former ballroom of the hotel.

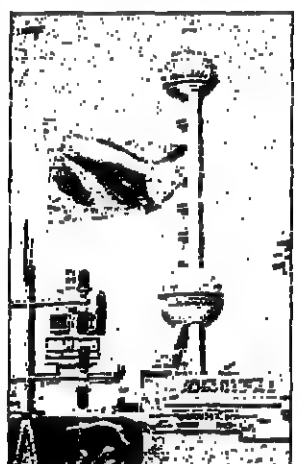
Nanjing Lu, a shopping street famous throughout China, has a Pepsi sign on every lamppost and Cindy Crawford et al on enormous hoardings. Wander amid the back streets and tar in the Mandarin Bazaar, situated in the old Chinese city, and sample the dumplings before strolling through the Yu Yuan gardens.

At the Huxinting mid-lake teahouse, across the zigzag bridge of nine turnings, wait until six in the evening and then make your way to the upstairs section of the teahouse where a three-man orchestra wearing dark blue mandarin robes begin to play. Chinese classical music drifts across the dark wooden chamber as dusk falls. Open a window to allow the essential Shanghai sound effect of mournful ships' horns, blaring once to indicate a turn to starboard, twice to port, three times for reverse, to drift in from the Huangpu.

Order the tea of your choice with steamed peanuts, bean curd and glutinous rice snacks. Try to get the menu that quotes 25 yuan, rather than the one that charges 44 for tea-only. (There is a long

tradition of charging foreigners double in teahouses. In earlier days it was done by giving out green cups which were charged at twice the rate of white cups. Signs proclaimed: "Everybody wearing foreign clothes pays double".) Watch the waddling babies, the old men doing their stretching exercises on the bridge, allow your cup to be refilled and wait until 6.30pm when, silent girls wearing cheongsams perform a small tea ceremony to an audience of three schmoozing Chinese couples. The orchestra performs and the tea ceremony takes place every night but only one of four guidebooks mentioned it.

Another corner of Shanghai that is little visited by foreigners is the Dashihe. The Great World Entertainment Centre



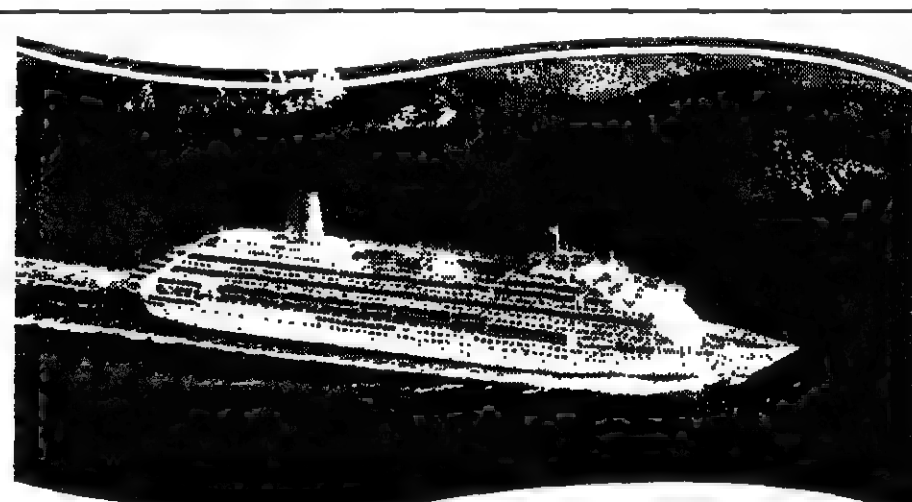
Shanghai is a mixture of the old and new

is now a Youth Palace. In the 1930s it was the property of a gangster named Pockmark Huang, with gambling dens, dance halls, massage parlours and brothels.

Nowadays it is all closed by 9pm - decadence finishes early in Shanghai - but in the early evening families, Chinese tourists and young office workers come to eat snacks, ride dodgem cars, listen to comedy, watch old movies and acrobatics. These are stunning displays on the open-air stage, and are straight acrobatics rather than the polished performances dished up to visitors in the two theatres.

KATE WEIDMANN

● Regent Holidays (0179 211711) has a week's B&B in Shanghai from £734, including flights from Heathrow with Air China via Peking, staying at the Hotel Magnolia on Nanjing Road.
● The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Odyssey*, (P. 95), *Life and Death in Shanghai*, by Nien Cheng (Flamingo, £7.99).



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Italy: The Tuscan hills are a great place for food, wine and getting fit – but take a good pair of shoes . . .

Walking back to health and happiness

What do I remember best? Wild flowers in a Coca-Cola bottle at a tiny shrine for the Virgin, beside a mountain path; trees hung with cherries and red geraniums in window boxes; an aching bottom from riding a mountain bike too fast down a long track newly-surfaced with small limestone boulders; the Gothic windows in the apse of the cathedral at Barga, glazed with thin sheets of coloured marble; fireflies lighting up a hillside like Harrods at Christmas; and fields of long-stemmed wheat, each one, said a cynic, waiting for its cheque from Brussels.

We stayed between the Apuane Alps and a spur of the Apennines. "Chianti" is far to the south and, when English is spoken in the Garfagnana in northern Tuscany, it may well be with a Scottish accent. In the depression at the end of the last century many people emigrated to Scotland. Many have come back. The apparently Italian manager of the Villa Libano hotel in Barga, where we ate on our first night, had played rugby for Scotland under-16s.

The base is in an old farm a few kilometres from Barga. The stone outbuildings have been converted into comfortable bedrooms. No group is bigger than 14 and there are always two guides for the walking or biking. With one guide at the front and the other at the back, everyone can go at his or her own speed.

Northern Tuscany can provide some rugged walking, but nothing beyond the ability of the reasonably fit and well



shod. Biking can be more demanding, particularly if the last time you cycled was a decade or three ago. But old skills reassert themselves, although mountain-bike gears, which make those on a four-wheel-drive truck seem unsophisticated, can take a morning to get used to. Muscles, unused and forgotten, can complain for days.

I prefer to walk. In early June the countryside was still full of wild flowers. Valerian grew out of dry stone walls, there were showers of dog roses in hedgerows, blood-red poppies, wild lupins, broom and, in the mountain meadows, tiny orchids and pinks. We walked up through chestnut forest, then through beech to the meadows above the tree line. Like many Italian hills, the Pania di Corfino has a cross on its highest point. We sat around it and looked out over the Serchio valley to the distant Apuane Alps.

The limestone tops of the Apuane are almost bald. The white in many north-facing gulleys was snow, even in June, but the largest expanse of white was a marble quarry. The stone is cut into 20-ton blocks, each priced at about



The long and winding roads of northern Tuscany can provide some rugged walking. Biking can be more demanding, particularly if the last time you cycled was a decade ago

£20,000, and today almost all of it goes to the Middle East. Michelangelo got the marble for his statue of David from the Apuane, and it stands in the Galleria dell'Accademia in nearby Florence.

The Apennines, on the northeast side of the Serchio, are older, softer and more forested. Reafforestation has been going on for decades. Later in the year, guides will keep much of the walking within the tree line, but in June the sun was hot but far from unbearable. In February and March they will be leading snow-shoe walks along the high ridges. On a summer day it was difficult to imagine.

With one notable exception, the Tuscan white wines we drank were good and so were the reds. One red was memorable. We drank it on the

terrace of a small restaurant in Albiano. The label on the bottle was stuck on with tape and read "Vino delle Colline di Albiano" (wine of the Albiano hills), a modest enough bush. It was a rich blackcurrant colour and had a thick, earthy taste. We sat on the terrace, with antipasto and crostini, and the old bottle went to and from the barrel from which it was filled.

The awe-inspiring bad white wine was made almost acceptable by the setting in which it was drunk. And to be truthful, we got through quite a lot of it. We were eating at a table outside a farmhouse. The

sun had gone down, fireflies glittered and, here and there, a glow-worm switched itself on or off to announce its availability to any other interested glow-worm. Dinner was a huge, filling farm affair. The wine was thick, acrid and smelt of apples.

Every hill in Tuscany has its own town, or village, or hamlet "which, hid by beech and pine, like an eagle's nest, lies on the crest of purple Apennine", as Macaulay wrote. The town of Barga is bigger than most, partly walled and best entered through the Porta Reale, or Mancianella. From the old gate steep little streets, hardly altered in centuries,

climb up to the cathedral set on a small plateau at the top. It commands not just Barga as it tumbles downhill, a jumble of red-tiled roofs, but the whole Serchio valley, and the far mountains.

The cathedral has an early 13th-century pulpit which is a masterpiece of carving, in near-perfect condition. The 13th-century Gothic apse should be seen, as I saw it, with its great doors open, the sun going down, and shadows beginning to darken the Apuane Alps across the valley. Of all my memories, perhaps that will last the longest.

DAVID WHITAKER

FACT FILE

- Exodus (0181-675 5350) offers a selection of itineraries in Tuscany.
- The eight-day Carignone walking holiday starts at £495, including flights, transfers, accommodation and guides. A local payment covers food.
- The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends *Walking and Eating in Tuscany and Umbria*, by James Lasdon (Penguin, £8.99); *The Tuscan Year*, by Elizabeth Rosner (Phoenix, £5.99).

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Napoleon's pocket empire

Our first view of Elba from the ferry was of a green, volcanic rock looking rather like the scaly profile of a lizard. It was encircled by craggy inlets, coves and sandy bays, many of them deserted, and inland were mountains covered by centuries-old forests and small hill towns.

We were on a week's guided tour of Elba and Tuscany, chauffeured by our Italian driver Sandro in a cosy minibus. Miranda, our English guide, who studied furniture restoration in Florence, peppered her commentary with quotes from the Italian travels of poets and authors such as Shelley and D.H. Lawrence.

On a walk along a coastal path we discovered why the Greeks called Elba *Aethalia* — "always flowering". The soil is rich in minerals which produce hydrangeas in glorious colours and the hillsides are alive with wild cyclamen, sweet-smelling herbs, prickly pears and yellow broom.

Three thousand years ago on the island, things were far from peaceful and quiet. Elba



Napoleon's death mask

was important to armies and empires. Its iron ore gave the Etruscans their great power in Italy. The Romans quarried granite at Secchiato for the columns of the Pantheon, each 14½ ft in circumference and 41½ ft high. One carved specimen still lies in the hills, rejected by a Roman clerk of works as unsuitable. The Romans and Greeks also used iron ore from Elba for their swords. St Paul preached on

FACT FILE

■ The author travelled with Crystal Holidays (0181-390 5554), which offers a week in a three-star hotel on Elba from £432 in September.

■ Tours of Tuscany cost about £700 a week. The company can also arrange self-drive holidays.

■ Reading: *The Travel Bookshop* (0171-229 5260) recommends *Napoleon*, by Vincent Cronin (Fountain, £9.99), *Tuscany and Umbria Rough Guide* (£10.99).

Elba and the Pope gave the island to the Republic of Pisa in the 11th century.

In 1802, the island was annexed to France and in 1804 made a principality and the exiled Napoleon its sovereign. He landed on May 4, aged 44, as ruler of a place half the size of the Isle of Wight.

The emperor inspected the island on horseback and turned mule tracks into much of the road system that Elba has today. He ordered wells and drains to be dug and encouraged the growing of vegetables. He improved the wheat crop, planted vines, imported chestnut and olive trees from Corsica, planted mulberry trees from Tuscany along the roadsides and expanded the fishing industry.

For his palace, Napoleon chose the Villa dei Mulini on the site of two windmills, high up in the old part of Portoferraio, and turned it into the Palazzo dei Mulini. Visitors can see his grand canopy bed and a small version of the famous painting of the emperor on a white charger. The most striking exhibit is a bust of Napoleon carved in marble.

Paola, Napoleon's sister, came to live with him and acted as his hostess at formal occasions. The Villa San Martino, a simple farmhouse in a green valley four miles from hot and smelly Portoferraio, was bought as a summer residence.

To help him raise the money, his sister sold some of her jewels. After his death all the furniture in the house was auctioned to pay off family debts. It is now a museum and houses an exhibition of Napoleonic prints. Today, the only thing Napoleon would recog-



An 1830 watercolour depicting Napoleon in 1815 as he prepares to escape from the island of Elba aboard the *Inconstant* and return to France

nise is Canova's nude statue of Princess Paola and a 200-year-old olive tree at the entrance to the house.

On a Sunday morning we climbed 800ft up a cobbled pathway to the mountain sanctuary of the Madonna Del Monte, on the slopes of Monte Giove above Marciana, where Napoleon is said to have sat hour after hour admiring the view of his native Corsica.

When his Austrian wife, the Empress Marie Louise, and his son were prevented from joining him, Napoleon became restless and plotted his escape. On February 16, 1815, while his watchdog, the English commissioner Sir Neil Campbell, was in Florence, Napoleon ordered the brig *Inconstant* to be painted like an English warship and pre-

pared for sea. On February 25, Paola announced that she was planning a grand ball. The next day Napoleon, along with 500 men, secretly fled the Elbons: "I leave you prosperity, I leave you a clean, fair city. I leave you my roads and trees for which your children at least will thank me."

We said goodbye to Elba, too, crossing to the mainland at Piombino and headed for the spa town of Montecatini Terme, and the grand Hotel Croce di Malta, which served the finest food and was to be our base while we embarked on a three-day mini-version of the grand tour.

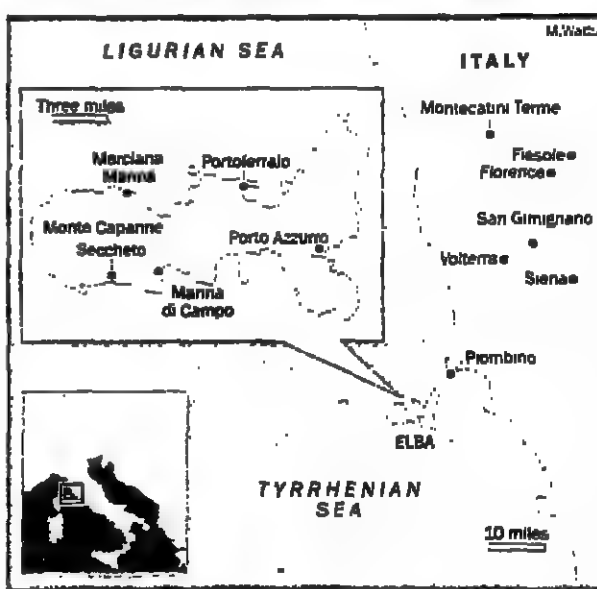
We took the winding mountain road to Volterra, once an Etruscan city important for

mining alabaster, visited the magnificent stone towers at San Gimignano and pored over the Roman amphitheatre at Fiesole.

In Florence an old Italian guide took us on a tour of churches and museums off the tourist trail and even in the much-visited Medici Chapel he showed us a treasure that many sightseers never see.

After whispering to a curator, she led us to a side room where a security guard lifted a trap door in the floor. On the walls of the crypt below we were privileged to see some of Michelangelo's original sketches for his masterpieces that grace Florence. Napoleon's "tomb" had been intriguing; this was breathtaking.

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Hallelujah for the Emilian Way

Nestling beside the River Po, Piacenza is the start of the Emilian Way, laid out by a Roman consul two centuries before the birth of Christ. This Roman road runs straight as a billiard cue for 36 kilometres to Fidenza, where Giovanni Guareschi set his tales of the priest Don Camillo.

Via Emilia runs southeast to Parma. Imposing, though sometimes tumbledown, farms flank the roadside. At Parma the Via Emilia slices

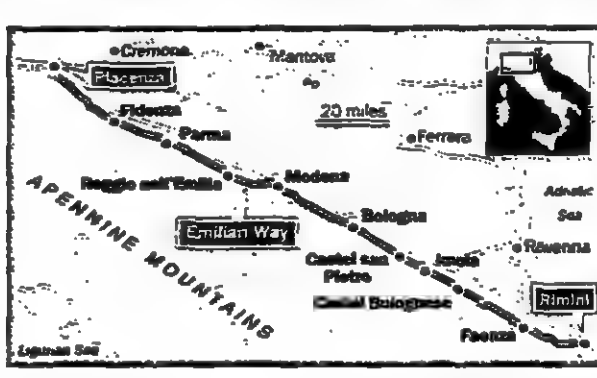
through Piazza Garibaldi — once the Roman forum. My next stop, Reggio nell'Emilia, was unlovely, unlike Modena after it. Via Emilia cuts straight through Modena, passing the apex of its stupendous cathedral where the belfry leans decidedly out from the perpendicular.

The cathedral was packed for Mass. As it ended, the choir sang Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* in Italian and the bishop walked through the crowd scattering blessings.

Outside, parents photographed their children as they sat on the marble lions supporting the cathedral doorway. On the right a wedding was taking place in the 17th-century Palazzo Comunale, with its statue of the Madonna under the clock tower and its fanciful weather vane.

Bologna, one of Italy's gastronomic and fashion centres, is a city of elegant arcaded streets. Tagliatelle was invented here in 1847 for the marriage of Lucrezia Borgia and the Duke of Ferrara. Eating in the Grand Hotel Baglioni, I naturally began with tagliatelle, the succulence of which was matched by the frescoes of the hotel restaurant, which depict the four seasons and the fall of Icarus. Visiting the downstairs toilets I discovered a Roman road running through them.

Leaving Bologna I reached the spa of Castel San Pietro in time for the Monday market, which stretches south from its battlemented medieval castle along the arcaded main street. I bought slices of Parma



ham and chunks of Parmesan cheese and then drove on to Imola, which the Via Emilia ruthlessly bisects.

Imola, a higgledy-piggledy spot, has useful notices giving the dates of its historic buildings. A sadder notice in the central square says that on April 20, 1844, two partisans, Livia Venturini and Rosa Zanotti, were shot by the Nazis.

Six kilometres later I passed the Castel Bolognese, with a few remains of its medieval

walls and the sole remaining tower of a castle which Cesare Borgia demolished in 1501. Cherry trees and vineyards flank the route, with pink rose trees at the end of the rows of vines. Turning off the Via Emilia into Faenza, I was delighted to find a park with picnic tables and a little lake.

As its name implies, Faenza is renowned for its porcelain (or faience), so my wife bought a superb plate, and we left for Forlì. The city retains only a triumphal gate and a 15th-

century bastion but its immense cathedral of Santa Croce demonstrates what 19th-century architects could achieve — a huge portico on Corinthian columns and, inside, monumental pillars supporting the roof.

Then, by way of Cesena, I drove along Via Emilia to reach Rimini, Italy's finest Adriatic seaside resort.

Here the Emilian Way passes through the Arco di Augusto, the oldest surviving Roman arch in Italy. The boss of the Rimini tourist board said that, in his youth, a Roman stone marked the end of the Emilian Way where it met the *Flaminian Way* (which runs from Rimini to Rome). This stone was destroyed by the RAF in the Second World War.

Signor Donati said: "That was a long time ago and all is forgotten. Rimini lives off tourism and we particularly welcome the British."

JAMES BENTLEY

FACT FILE

■ Flights with Alitalia (0171-602 7111) to Bologna start at £215 from Gatwick. Italian Express (0181-746 2661) has three nights' B&B in Bologna from £271 per person, including flights.

■ Accommodation: In Piacenza, the Nazionale (039 523 72000) and Milano (039 523 33643) both charge £55 a double room and breakfast. At Parma, the Grand Hotel Baglioni (059 521 28282) costs £118 a double. In Bologna, the Grand Hotel Baglioni (059 521 25445) charges £162-£205 for a double room and breakfast.

At Rimini, the Hotel Lussor (059 3541 39990) and Hotel Levante (059 3541 39254) both charge £22-£43 full board.

■ Reading: *The Travel Bookshop* (0171-229 5260) recommends *Italian Journeys*, by Jonathan Keates (Picador, £6.99).



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Ireland: Seduced by the dramatic coastline and wild peaks of Co Kerry, and pampered in a gourmet hideaway



Dream scene: Macgillycuddy's Reeks are Ireland's highest mountains, set inland from the Ring of Kerry. Although this area is busy, it is easy to avoid the crowds and appreciate the magnetism of the place.

There's to be a heat wave tomorrow," announced the Irishman standing next to me at the bar of the Blue Bull in Sneem, Co Kerry. "It's starting at three o'clock, and we've been told to stay inside." He did not elaborate on this instruction, but took a swig of his Guinness with the gloomy satisfaction of one who thrives on apocalyptic visions. Happily for us, he got the

weather right but the timing completely wrong: we awoke next morning to cloudless skies and balmy air spiked with warm pine, clover, pockets of intense honeysuckle and rose. The hedgerows are

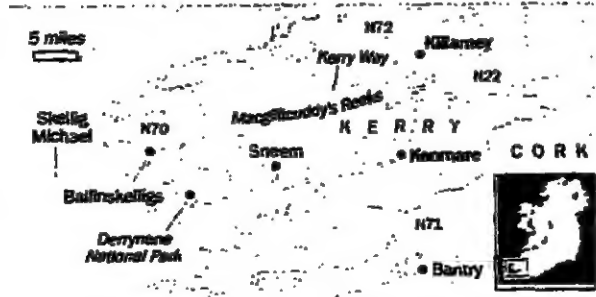
bursting with fuchsias and dog roses. A lark ascends. We do not propose to stay inside.

An Irish heat wave sounds such a contradiction in terms that to stumble on one bestows a sense of privilege, particularly if you are in the Ring of Kerry at the time. This is the most visited corner of Ireland, and the 110-mile circuit crawls with foreign numberplates, tourist coaches and overheated Germans on pushbikes. But slip away up a side road, and it is easy to feel the magnetism of the place: a dramatic coastline and the wild beauty of the lakes and peaks inland, including Ireland's highest mountains, Macgillycuddy's Reeks.

If you then douse the lot in freshish Mediterranean sunshine, after a glass or two of Beamish in contemplation of Kerry's dromedary profile against the azure skies of early evening, you begin to wonder whether you have inadvertently died and gone to heaven.

There is a certain quirky humour in the Ring of Kerry's uncompromising attitude to its lifeblood tourist trade. The N20 road, which circumnavigates it, is a devilish twist of a single carriage-way, clearly designed to discourage foreign motorists and coach drivers. Its cratered surface ensures that bikers and cyclists are also in for a few surprises along the way.

Yet many visitors treat the area as a whistle-stop tour to be done from the county town of Killarney. They slog round it in a day, hardly leaving their vehicles except to wield the camcorder at each viewpoint car park. They miss a great deal — not least the sense of peace and grand isolation once the crowds are gone.



To take things at a more leisurely pace, we rented a farmhouse outside the village of Sneem for a week. It proved to be a warm, reasonably functional monument to Catholicism and carpet kitsch: 11 rooms, at least 19 jennies around the place, including a particularly fetching Virgin-in-a-snowstorm dome. We looked on it as a refreshing break from the dull tasteful-

ness of the Ikea-riden homes that we had left behind in the real world.

With two toddlers and an expectant mother in the party, all-day hikes were clearly off the agenda (though there is wonderful walking to be done, including the long-distance Kerry Way which circles the peninsula). Luckily, this is where the heat wave really came into its own, for we spent

several days on Derrynane's child-friendly beach, building sand elephants and swimming in water so warm and sheltered that getting in elicited barely a whimper.

Be warned, however: Irish heat waves are not reliable. There is no guarantee that the clouds that burn off by mid-morning over your farmhouse are not simply massing sulkily over your proposed picnic spot a few miles down the coast. But the skies generally cleared, sooner or later. And on the days they did not, or when the pull of another session with the sand menagerie began to wane, there were other options.

Probably the best way to explore the peninsula and escape the crowds is to hire a bike. Cycling on the back roads to Kenmare, a pretty little town 20 miles away,

proved to be a memorable experience, in part because of the delightful old lady in beads and a flowery frock who runs Sneem's bicycle shop and who, I suspect, would not know a pair of Lycra cycle shorts from a Versace evening dress.

She had no interest in taking a deposit on the bicycle itself, but was worried about what might happen if she lent me a lock. "Folk are always losing the keys," she explained. That day's bike rent was the best £5 I have spent in years.

Another excellent trip (minus toddlers, thankfully) was out to the Skellig Islands from Ballinskelligs, an hour away by fishing launch. Little Skellig is a jagged arch of volcanic rock, thickly encrusted with gannets; the boats will go quite close in but there is no landing there.

Skellig Michael, however,

though it looks equally inhospitable from a distance, turns out to have a harbour of sorts. Numerous small launches buzz around the island like insects, waiting for their passengers who are dropped off to follow the steep stone pathway up to a 1,000-year-old monastery at the summit of the rock. It is an awesome, eerie place, its atmosphere undisturbed by the crowds of sightseers clambering in and out of the dry-stone beehive cells.

A knowledgeable archaeologist-guide painted a picture of life for the handful of monks who lived there, with no fuel on the island, no water except the rainwater they collected in two tanks, and no food but birds and fish. (Luckily we had taken sandwiches, because absolutely nothing has changed in that respect: there are not even toilet facilities.)

The monks have long since left, but Skellig Michael is still home to a large colony of puffins, which nest in the rocks alongside the path. They look like small, uncoordinated businessmen, and their laughable attempts to take off and land amount to a sort of birdie floor-show on the long haul up to the monastery. Back on the mainland, the village of Sneem seems on the face of it to have sold its soul to tourism: every other shop is an estate or souvenir emporium, and the air is thick with unfamiliar languages. Despite that, however, it is unquestionably charming, its two greasies linked by an adamantly single-track bridge and surrounded by brilliantly coloured houses. There is no messing about with namby-pamby pastel: expect a hard-hitting blood-red wash, preferably next door to mustard with mauve guttering. The effect is Toy Town but irresistible. And I don't think it is laid on just for the tourists.

FAITH GLASGOW



FACT FILE

■ The author rented her farmhouse through Shamrock Cottages (01823 660126). Another company which also specialises in renting Irish property is Welcome Irish Holidays (01756 702214). The bigger properties are to great demand, especially during school holidays, and early booking is essential. The author's farmhouse slept six to seven plus cot, and cost £345 for a week in July, exclusive of fuel and linen; the price varies according to season from £193 to £388.

■ Shamrock can offer a price inclusive of the car ferry. In this case, cottage and ferry (Fishguard-Rosslare, three and a half hours) was £501.

■ Sailing from Swansea to Cork (12 hours) cuts down the driving across Ireland.

■ Flights from Stansted to Cork with Ryanair (0541 569569) cost £79.

■ A hired car (all leading firms are based at the airport) is the easiest way of getting from Cork to Kerry, and pretty much a necessity there unless you plan to explore exclusively by foot/cycle.

■ As a touring base, Kenmare makes a pleasant alternative to touristy Killarney. The Purple Heather Bistro on Henry Street has a reputation for excellent food; book in advance, no matter what time of year. Kenmare's tourist office is in The Square (00 353 64 41233).

■ Trips to the Skellig Islands are run through the season by numerous small enterprises, all of whom charge a flat IR£20 per person. We went from Ballinskelligs with Joe Roddy.

■ Cycling the Ring of Kerry takes three days; expect to use all your gears. In Sneem, Burns Bike Hire (00 353 64 45140) charges IR£5 a day or IR£30 a week. In Kenmare, try Finnegan's at the Fallow Hotel (00 353 64 41082).

Running rings around Kerry

Dinner with the Michelin man

FOR VISITORS to southwestern Ireland with a passion for scenery and a secret desire for luxury, the Sheen Falls Lodge is a remarkable spot. Tim Rice writes. It is a stately pile painted a distinctive mustard yellow — as are a number of buildings in this area.

The hotel, part of the grand Relais & Châteaux group, has a splendid position. Waterfalls cascade past it into Kenmare Bay and the views are lovely in all directions.

The bedrooms are hugely comfortable and decorated in relaxing neutrals, like most of the interior. The Cascade Restaurant was awarded a Michelin star in 1992 and the chef, Fergus Moore, runs cooking courses.

There are weekends for walking, salmon fishing, wine tasting, romance (February 14) and more (average price: £250 per person for two nights half board and activities). Staff are delightfully unstuffy, despite the elegant surround-

ings. If your pocket is deep, this is worth a visit in itself with endless excursion possibilities, including Kenmare up the road. For those in search of how the other half of Ireland lives, it's worth splashing out to stay in a place like this before you return to reality.

AUTUMN BREAKS at Sheen Falls Lodge, Kenmare, Co Kerry (00 353 64 41600) start at £219 per person sharing a double room, including two nights' accommodation with breakfast and one dinner in the hotel's Michelin-star restaurant, La Cascade.

Special interest weekends take place during October and November, with subjects including food and wine, bridge, golf, health and beauty, and an outdoor activity break including riding, hill walking and clay pigeon shooting.

Ryan Air (0541 569569) has daily flights from London (Stansted) to Kerry. Prices start at £79 return.



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AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Cruising Lake Nasser

THOSE hoping to cruise the Nile in December and January, when the Esna Lock is likely to be closed for maintenance, might prefer to avoid the disruption and inconvenience this causes by opting for a cruise on Lake Nasser instead.

Highlight of the 300-mile long "Nubian Sea", created by the building of the Aswan Dam, is of course Ramses II's great temple of Abu Simbel, but there are other ancient monuments to visit ashore. However, Bales Tours (01306 885901) reckons four days afloat on Lake Nasser is enough as there are no villages along the banks. It combines the cruise on the 1920s-style steamship *Kas Ibrahim* with four days in Aswan, from £699 to £1,225.

WHERE can you find outstanding Trappist beer? How can you avoid that wretched local beer served with a straw? Michael Jackson's *World Beer Hunter* CD-Rom will tell you. Available in September from BMG Interactive (0171 384 7500) for £29.99, it is essential viewing for those planning a thirst-quenching trip abroad. The author describes more than 400 pubs and breweries worldwide and a selection of beer-tasting holidays, as well as a personal list of beers he would want if stranded on a desert island.

City breaks

MIDDLE EAST specialist Jasmijn Tours (0181-675 8866) is offering four-night breaks off the usual tourist trail from mid-September to mid-October. On a four-night trip to Beirut (£488), you can easily visit both Byblos, the world's longest-inhabited city, and the Roman *folie-de-grandeur* site at Baalbek. A trip to Alexandria, in Egypt, where Cleopatra's sunken city is being excavated, costs £488 for four nights. All prices include flights and B&B accommodation.

Last resorts

DESPITE mass tour operators' claims that there are no holidays left for this summer, smaller specialist firms can still come up with some last resorts, says the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO).

French specialist VFB (01242 240340) can organise self-catering holidays in coastal France, including a self-drive week in a two-bedroom flat in Biot, Provence, costing £514 for two people. An extra week costs £414. (Prices cover ferry crossings.)

On the lesser-known Greek islands from mid-August, Laskarina (01629 822203) can offer two weeks on tiny Halki for £449, and Sunvil Holidays (0181-568 4499) has studio flats based on Lemnos for £423 for two weeks self-catering.

Magic of Portugal (0181-741 1181) can tuck holidaymakers into the Algarve — a week's B&B at Hotel Garbe in Armacao de Pera costs £649, with the alternative of a week on the bracing Lisbon coast at Estoril for £599.

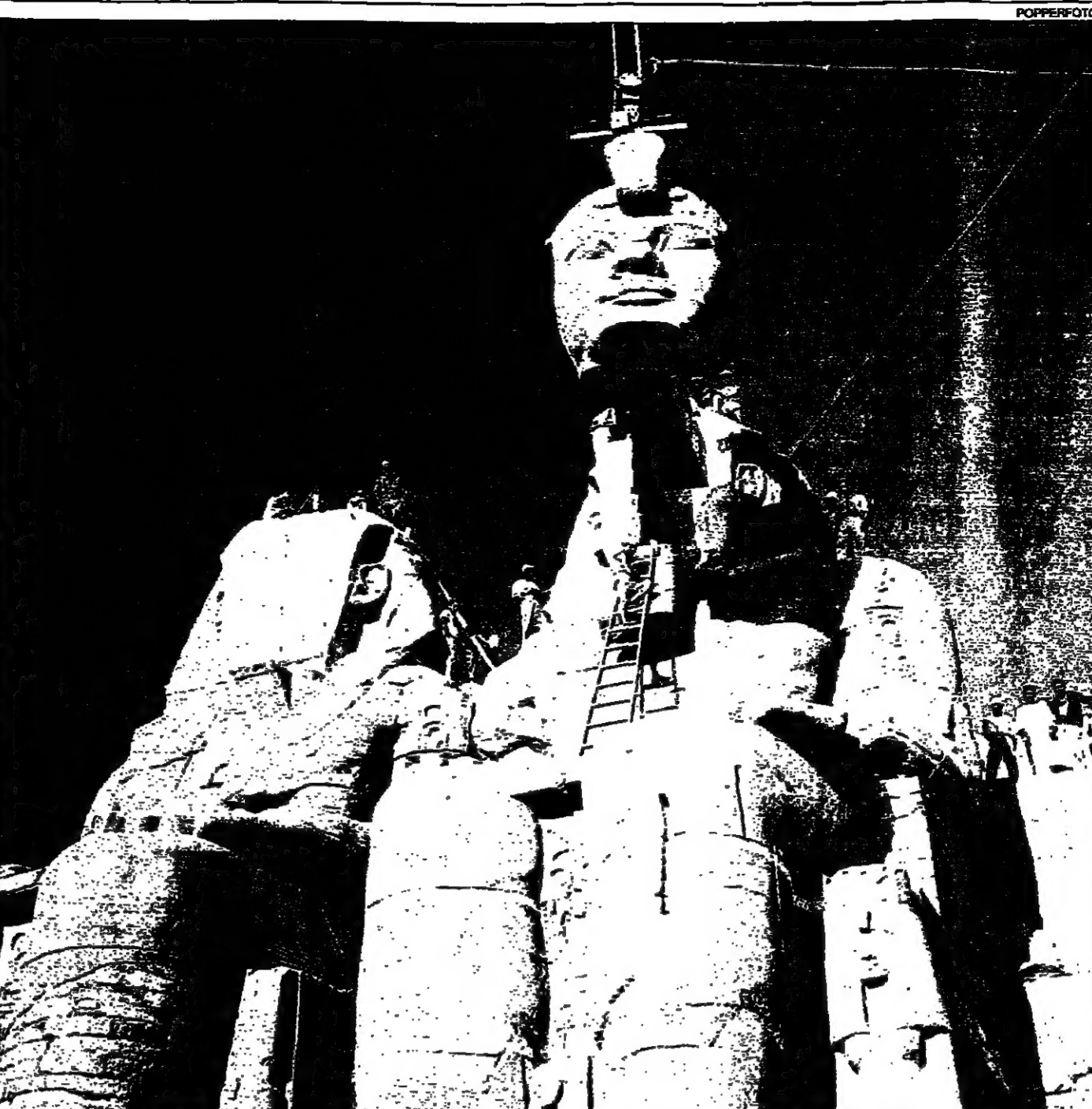
Panorama Holidays (01273 206531) has spaces in Tunisia on a flight-only basis for £209, or seven nights B&B for £299, as well as in Opatija, a former British favourite in Croatia (£365 half-board for a week with flights).

AITO's *Directory of Real Holidays*, listing 150 independent firms, is free from 0181-607 9080.

IF YOU want to steer clear of the hordes of cruise passengers that often clog up holiday resorts as they flood ashore, take a note of the Top Twenty Ports of Call surveyed by Lloyd's *Cruise International* magazine. It names the US Virgin Islands, Miami, the Bahamas, San Juan, Yucatan, Grand Cayman, St Martin, Jamaica, Barbados and Vancouver as the Top Ten. In the Mediterranean, the Top Ten are Athens/Piraeus, Rhodes, Ephesus, Mykonos, Santorini, Falmes, Crete, Majorca, Barcelona and Genoa.

Otter survival

YOU can help the otter, an endangered species, by joining one of three projects in Skye, India and Russia run by the International Otter Survival Fund (01471 822487). On Skye, some of the tasks you will be assigned will



Ramses II's temple of Abu Simbel being moved during the building of the Aswan Dam. The temple is a highlight of a cruise of Lake Nasser

include researching the otters' diet and the development of their cubs. You are expected to contribute £345 towards costs and your keep.

Save-the-otter volunteers pay £1,175 (which includes flights) for the 12 days in southern India. If you join the Russian project, you will stay with a local family in the Central Forest Biosphere Reserve in the Tver Region, 200 miles west of Moscow. The cost is £825, including all flights.

River rafting

WHITE-WATER raft specialist Adrift (0181-874 4969) is running several trips to Ethiopia's River Omo after the rainy months of September, October and November, when the waters are at their

best level for rafting. The trips are graded two to three, which in white-water speak means reasonably gentle and suitable for those who wish to explore the river without shooting down rapids. The Upper Omo trip, which costs £1,000 for 15 days, has steep gorges and abundant wildlife. On the Lower Omo trip (£2,200 for 17 days), rafters will meet the Bodi,

Mursi and Kwegu people, who are remote, semi-nomadic tribes. An 18-day Omo Exploration trip (£2,430) runs through uncharted waters further down the Omo. The prices include flights, accommodation and most meals, four-wheel drives and hotel stays in Addis Ababa. On average, eight days are spent on the river, camping and rafting.

Restrictions for high street agents

TRAVEL NEWS

HIGH-STREET travel-agency names may disappear following suggestions by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The MMC is investigating whether firms who own tour operations, travel agencies and airlines restrict the choice available for holidaymakers.

In a letter to travel firms outlining "hypothetical proposals", the MMC has suggested that companies such as Thomson and Aircoats rename their owned agencies, Lunn Poly and Going Places, to make the commercial connection clear to customers. Other ideas include a ban on linking insurance to holiday discounts, and forcing operators to restrict the number of retail outlets they own. The letter suggests a maximum of 300 shops. Lunn Poly owns 800 and Going Places has 710. The two account for 22 per cent of all agencies.

The travel industry has until September 1 to respond but is fighting its corner. Ian Smith, managing director of Lunn Poly, said: "There is no case to answer."

AS EXPECTED, family holidays in August are proving hard to find, with a Surrey agency this week saying its cheapest deal is the Canary Islands for £339. But for those prepared to travel outside the school holidays there is still availability in September and October.

Tony Bennett, managing director of Going Places, this week told *Travel Weekly*, the trade paper: "People have realised that if they wait a month they can go on holiday for half the price."

THE STRENGTH of the pound is benefiting holidaymakers heading abroad but is hitting the market at home. The British Incoming Tour Operators Association is forecasting a drop of 800,000 foreign visitors to the United Kingdom this year, a fall of 3 per cent.

The sharp rise in London hotel rates has exacerbated the situation, with the number of continental European visitors being the most affected. Roger Heape, managing director of British Airways Holidays, said its French and German visitor numbers were down by 30 per cent.

STEVE KEENAN

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